

INSIDE TODAY**U.S. NEWS****MISSILE FIZZLE**

South Korean protesters burn pictures of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and mock missiles during a rally against North Korea's missiles near the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, April 5, 2009. North Korea fired a rocket over Japan on Sunday, defying Washington, Tokyo and others who suspect the launch was cover for a test of its long-range missile technology.

See **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

SPORTS NEWS**FINALLY FIRST**

Jeff Gordon celebrates after winning the NASCAR Samsung 500 auto race at Texas Motor Speedway, Sunday, April 5, 2009, in Fort Worth, Texas.

See **Sports Today**



Price of a barrel of petroleum today:

US\$ 52.51

A Hole in One for Ruth Postma

Sidney Flanegin and Andy Doorer win the 5th Wente/Papiamento Golf Tournament

TIERRA DEL SOL - Sidney Flanegin and Andy Doorer have won the 5th annual Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament, which was held this past Saturday at the Tierra del Sol Golf course. Runners-up were Tony Arrindell and Bas Olde Riekerink, while team Stefan Legger/Stephan v.d. Varst was in third place. Clifton Wong was Closest to the Pin, Andy Doorer Longest Drive and Frank Bonset was the wine quiz winner. Ruth Postma stunned everyone by hitting a Hole in One. The tournament was once again a great success, also because of the presence of fifth-generation Wente vineyards owner Eric Wente, who played a mean game of golf together with Sven Schneider of the Flying Fishbone Restaurant.

Continued on page 4

*With views of Aruba from horseback*

Rancho La Ponderosa wins recognition as "tour of the season"



PAPAYA – Rancho La Ponderosa was recently recognized as "tour of the season" for its horseback riding tours of the Aruban countryside. The award was given to Ranch partners Lucho Claro and Ramon Herrera, via De Palm Tours, from Princess Cruises.

During Aruba's busy cruise tourism season, as well as throughout the year, Rancho El Ponderosa promises a

memorable tour of Aruba from the saddle of Aruba's best riding horses. For its consistency in providing its cruise passengers an excellent overland adventure, which combines friendly, knowledgeable trail guides, picturesque trails and soft-stepping gaited horses, Rancho La Ponderosa won Princess Cruises' ultimate honor of the best for horseback riding tours of Aruba for the 2007/2008 season. In a recent ceremony held on board a Princess Cruises' ship, the captain did the honors in presenting the award to Lucho Claro, in the presence of representatives from Rancho La Ponderosa, De Palm Tours and Princess Cruises, including Ramon Herrera, Geanina Gionea, Geraldine Keyter and Nathalie Solognier.

Continued on page 3

NEW McMAX
Max size
Max flavor



Oysters sell out in less than 24 hours at Moby Dick's



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

PASEO HERENCIA – On Friday afternoon, Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant received a shipment of live oysters and before they knew it, these delicious slippery legends of the sea were all gone. The supply ran out on Saturday evening after several groups of patrons continued to order the Oysters by the dozen faster than the kitchen could shuck the shells.

The next shipment is due to arrive on Friday, so Oyster lovers should order the Clams which are just as delicious and the Owner Brian Reeve's favorite item on the menu.

Photos by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

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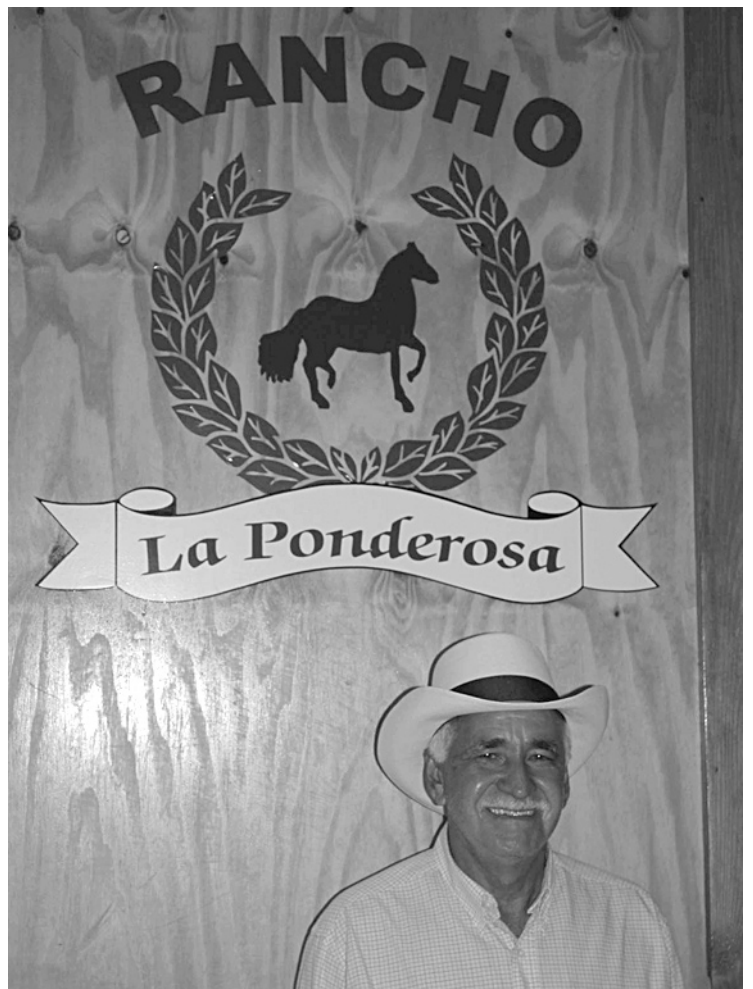
With views of Aruba from horseback

Rancho La Ponderosa wins recognition as "tour of the season"



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In a recent ceremony held on board a Princess Cruises' ship, the captain did the honors in presenting the award to Lucho Claro, in the presence of representatives from Rancho La Ponderosa, De Palm Tours and Princess Cruises, including Ramon Herrera, Geanina Gionea, Geraldine Keyter and Nathalie Solognier. With more than 30 years of experience, Rancho La Ponderosa remains a top choice among both visitors and local residents as the place to go for an outstanding horseback riding experience. The ranch offers all sorts of equestrian pursuits -- privately boarding horses, hosting horse shows, providing horseback riding lessons as well as offering both morning and afternoon trail rides. For more information on Rancho La Ponderosa, call Tel: 587-1142 or visit the website: rancholaponderosaaruba.com.



MONDAY'S CRAB NIGHT



\$ 34.95 per person + 15% s.c and 3% Gov. tax

Caesar salad with fresh Caribbean shrimp and Mandarin orange slices
The GIANT crab sampler includes Alaskan king crab legs, snow crab legs, fried soft shell crab, stuffed crab back, Maryland crab cake, lemon, Tartar sauce and drawn butter.



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A Hole in One for Ruth Postma

Sidney Flanegin and Andy Doorer win the 5th Wente/Papiamento Golf Tournament



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Restaurant, where participants indulged in a fantastic buffet and enjoyed many a glass of Wente wines before they went home. During the reception in the beautiful garden of the restaurant, Govert van der Hout of the Arion Wine Company and representative of Wente Wines on the island, introduced Mr. Wente to the guests. He elaborated on this year's charity, the foundation that distributes breakfast to children who go to school hungry, Ban Uni Man pa Cria Nos Muchanan. Mr. John Fun, president of the foundation, explained how essential everyone's donations are.

The 132 players were off to the greens on Saturday afternoon. Bright sunshine, a nice breeze and good company had everyone back at 6 pm with big smiles on their faces. But that could also have been caused by the fact that there were various wine stations around the course. Before the results were announced by golf pro Oliver Riding, there was Tierra del Sol's fabulous soup buffet, a sure winner.

The fifth edition of the Wente Vineyards/Papiamento Restaurant Golf Tournament was once again a fun charity event. No doubt about it!

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Overall, a very successful evening was had by all and Tango awaits the you for the dinner of your life tonight.

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ARAWAK - In recent months, Tango Restaurant has hosted a variety of different groups to a delicious 3 course dinner. Last Saturday evening, a

group of 130 guests from Decox Sincox Company enjoyed a fabulous evening at Tango. This Italian group was fully pampered; the Italian

Association Dimension Turismo makes sure that these groups enjoy many of the favorite restaurants of Aruba. Tango went all out to



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MARCH 26, 27	NCAA SWEET SIXTEEN
MARCH 28, 29	ELITE EIGHT
APRIL 4	FINAL FOUR
APRIL 6	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

For information and reservations: Tel: 586-8191 • 586-7427 • Open for lunch and dinner from 12 Noon to 11 PM. Located across from the Holiday Inn Resort

“The science behind healthy living”

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medical fitness” in order to provide several physician guided services for exercise and healthy living.

As of March 2009, EMCARE and FitLife® medical fitness have a portfolio of services, which is geared towards any person of any age including children.

Theseservicesincludebutarenot limited to; Cardiovascular Risk Assessment, Musculoskeletal Risk Assessment, Exercise Tolerance Testing, Physician Guided Exercise Program Planning, Physical Therapist Guided Exercise Programs, Physical Therapy Consultation, Rehabilitation Services, Nutritional Assessment and Personal Trainer Services.

FitLife® medical fitness is not your body builder’s gym. FitLife® medical fitness is based on scientific evidence for nutritional and exercise programs under the guidance of sports medical physicians, nutritionists and physical therapists who specialize in this type of fitness and wellness services.

The person who is a diabetic and any one over the age of 60 will require a different form of assessment compared to the 25 and 30 year old who wishes to tone their body or stay in shape.

This is not the military where everybody trains according to the same regiment. FitLife® medical fitness offers individual programs tailored to your individual needs. If your goal is weight loss, toning, nutritional, medical or just to stay healthy, FitLife® medical fitness has your answer.

Most programs are highly recommended to start off with a comprehensive Cardiovascular and Musculoskeletal Risk

Assessment followed by an Exercise Tolerance Test. It is important to assess all safety measures according to your real abilities before you start any fitness program in order to avoid exercise related risks. Based on laboratory tests, an integral multidisciplinary physical assessment and your exercise tolerance parameters, FitLife® medical fitness will be able to set up a custom program for you.

General Manager of Playa Linda Beach Resort Mr. Van Nes was one of the first people to experience the professionalism of FitLife® medical fitness. For his own personal goals Mr. Van Nes did the Cardiovascular, Musculoskeletal and Exercise Tolerance Assessment. In the picture you can see Mr. Van Nes during his Exercise Tolerance Test under the guidance of a FitLife® medical fitness physical therapist.

With FitLife® medical fitness you will receive personalized guidance if you choose to do so or we can set you up with your own program and do a re-assessment every three or six months.

We offer several programs at FitLife® medical fitness like FitHeart, FitMove, FitWork, FitKids, FitPlus, and our nutritional assessment and planning programs.

In the near future we will expand the services with FitFood, which is a concept of pre-planned and or pre-packaged meals based on our programs and nutritional recommendations.

Visit www.emcare-aruba.com and click on the “FitLife” button for more information. You can also call us at 743-4200 for scheduling an appointment with FitLife® medical fitness.

Enjoy the Best Easter Brunch ever

In the Grand Caribbean Ballroom
 On April 12, 2009
 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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Live Entertainment with
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Breakfast Station

Resort Baked Breakfast Breads and Pastries to include:
 Pound Cake • Banana Bread • Assorted Muffins and Danish
 Display of Smoked Salmon • Bagels and Cream Cheese
 Sliced Fresh Fruits • French Toast with Maple Syrup & Strawberry
 Sauce • Fluffy Scrambled Eggs • Crisp Bacon & Link Sausages
 Caribbean Breakfast Potatoes.

Omelet Station

Omelets prepared to order with Variety of Fillings • Soup Station
 Sopi di Corni

Salads

Mix Green Salad • Red Beef Mint Feta Salad • Potato Egg Salad
 Antipasto Salad • Crunch Chicken Salad with Mushrooms
 Spicy Sesame Dressing and Peanuts • Seafood Station • Aruban
 Ceviche with Shrimp, Scallops • Local Fish, Cilantro and Lime
 Display of Peel and Eat Shrimp • Mussels with Cocktail Sauce
 and Lemon Wedges.

Carving Station

Glazed ham with Tropical Salsa • Roast Beef with Horseradish
 Pesto Cream.

Gourmet Entrees

Keshi Yena • Red Snapper with Creole Sauce, Chimichuri Fried
 Plantains • Creamy Cheese Tortellini with Asparagus and Sundried
 Tomatoes in creamy Pesto Sauce • Scalloped Yukon Gold and
 Sweet Potato Gratin • Fresh Mixed Vegetables • Arroz Morro

Desserts

Freshly Baked Assortment of Cakes, Pastries, Flan, Quesillo
 and Pan Bolo.

Kids Station

Chicken Tenders • Hamburger • Hot Dog

Beverages

Unlimited Champagne and Mimosas, Sodas, Juices, Coffee and Tea.

NOORD - When you are on vacation in Aruba and you need a doctor and personal medical attention, call EMCARE Medical Services. This physician service makes house calls on a 24/7 basis and unless it’s an emergency where the patient will need to be referred to the local emergency room or advanced medical care is needed, a physician will come to your hotel room and even your medications can be delivered to your hotel.

EMCARE Medical Services operates a clinic on the property of the Playa Linda Beach Resort but with several hotels under contract their services will take them from the low rise to the high rise hotels every day of the week including week-ends, holidays and rainy days.

As part of its services expansion, EMCARE Medical Services has teamed up in a partnership with “FitLife®

MVCI celebrates 25 years of Unforgettable vacations

Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, Marriott's Aruba Surf Club remain prime locations



ORANJESTAD – In its silver anniversary year, Marriott Vacation Club International (MVCI) will welcome back an astonishing 400,000 vacation owners to its individual properties in Aruba as well as throughout the world. In 1984, Marriott became



the first branded hospitality company by nearly a decade to enter the timeshare industry. Its entry into the market was followed by a string of successes, which include the award-winning vacation ownership properties of Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club and Marriott's Aruba Surf Club. Built on the "Marriott Way" philosophy, with excellence in accommodations, amenities and especially customer service a primary focus, vacation ownership with MVCI has flourished to now include choices of 50 resorts in 30 destinations with more than 10,600 villas worldwide. While it is often the beauty of the properties themselves, set in idyllic environments, which win over MVCI owners and members, the benefits of quality management and unique flexibility ensure lifelong

satisfaction in unforgettable vacation experiences.

The industry took notice of MVCI's winning ways, bestowing the business world's highest honor of the Stevie™ on MVCI in different categories over several years. MVCI won for "Best Sales Organization" at the inaugural of the American Business Awards in 2003, and again in 2006 and 2008. In 2007, MVCI also received recognition as the "Best Customer Service Organization". The secret for MVCI's success, in achieving both tremendous growth and high satisfaction rates among its clientele, can be attributed to an immense amount of imagination and innovation.

MVCI has, in fact, managed to redefine the timeshare industry. It was the first to replace industry-standard fixed weeks with seasonally-based, floating time. By tailoring ownership to better suit its members, MVCI has quickly expanded. In 1996, it was the first branded hospitality company to enter the timeshare industry in Europe with the opening of Marriott's Marbella Beach Resort on Spain's Costa del Sol. Another first was achieved in 2001 with the opening of Marriott's Phuket Beach Club in Thailand representing the milestone of the first branded hospitality company to enter the timeshare industry in Asia.

Along with the option to exchange

weeks with priority within the Marriott Vacation Club portfolio, MVCI owners also have access to Interval International's global system of more than 2,300 resorts in over 75 countries. With an ability to vacation almost anytime of the year, anywhere in the world, MVCI owners enjoy countless possibilities.

In Aruba, many MVCI members choose to remain at the treasured location of either Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club or Marriott's Aruba Surf Club for their annual vacation, keeping the destination on the top tier of the most requested locations. But on the occasions that travel is not possible, MVCI even offers owners the opportunity to trade their time for Marriott Rewards points, or even rent their weeks. With MVCI celebrating its 25 years of unforgettable vacations, there is no better time to consider the benefits of vacation ownership with the Marriott. For a limited time only, on certain inventories, owners and non-owners purchasing at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club are eligible for special offers in celebration of this 25th anniversary.

For more information about MVCI, please visit the sales gallery located in Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, call Tel: 586-2641, or visit the website: www.vacationclub.com or www.marriottsarubasurfclub.com.

The French Steakhouse Gets a Seasonal Refresh



Eagle Beach – Locals and visitors have been looking forward to the seasonal menu tweak and recharge of the French Steakhouse, under the expert direction of executive chef George Hoek. The good news reached us just recently. The master has finally revealed his grand retouch, resulting in a packed dining-room every night of the week.

Among appetizers Chef George now lists his popular classics, Escargot a la Pernod and Prosciutto Ham & Melon

next to his novel selections, Authentic Aruba Keeshi Yena and Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple and mango salsa. The classic menu of the French Steak House received a pepped-up twist, also evident in the salad section featuring a Honey Glazed Salmon Salad and a Hearts of Palm with Roasted Pepper salad.

The menu now boasts more seafood, from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and

Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven! The famous South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, now shares the limelight with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon. And Chef George definitely took the boring out of chicken with his Jerk Curried Skewers and Lemon Herb Broilers.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person, at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, on Eagle beach. □



Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar perfects beach cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa recently unveiled its new lunch & cocktail menu, conceived and presented by executive chef George Hoek.

A few months ago, when Chef Hoek joined the Manchebo's culinary team, he promised to introduce a "Sun Splashed" menu to the resort's Café & Beach Bar, thus elevating beach cuisine to an ultimate high.

True to his promise, the chef delivered a contemporary menu, listing many favorite dishes from around the world, deriving inspiration off US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean menus, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

For starters to Sun-Sational Salads, to open

face sandwiches, Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, Chef Hoek went out of his way to bring novelty to mid-day platters, while not forgetting the classics, which also make an appearance on his menu starring oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical & frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

The Pega Pega, one of Aruba oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □



Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano delivers authentic Italian flavors



Eagle Beach -- Italian food lovers needn't walk far. Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located within walking distance of all low-rise resorts, at the charming Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers Mamma Mia cuisine. The Manchebo's Executive Chef George Hoek concocted an irresistible menu of Italian classic specialties with a contemporary feel, served al fresco, on the garden terrace or around the tropical pool.

From Anti Pasti to Insalata, Zuppa to Pesce, the menu welcomes diners with familiar recipes, which distinctly demonstrates the talents of Executive Chef George Hoek, a master of flavorful sauces, delicious combinations and delightful presentations

At the heart of the menu, the Pasta section, delivers a nice variety to be shared by two or enjoyed unabashedly solo – go ahead, you only live once. Pizza appears on Giorgio's menu for

those craving thin crusts and ample toppings, with a selection of classic pies made to order and served with a genuine Italian accent. Angelo, the Maitre D is Italian, naturally.

Giorgio's Piatti Principali feature a hit-parade of dishes, which make it very difficult to choose.

Giorgio's Osso Bucco will have you moaning with great satisfaction as you heap the braised veal shanks flavored with herbs and a red wine reduction, escorted by potato gnocchi, onto your fork, getting lost in the symphonic, robust flavors.

Chef George says General Manager Edgar Roelofs, is an incredibly valuable addition to our team as his food is divine, and his desserts deserve a special article on their own!

To check things out yourselves, call Giorgio's at the Manchebo Beach Resort. It is open for dinner nightly. □



Looking for the legendary seafood entrees?

Moby Dick's offers Easter Week Specials

Don't spend another day without a bloody oyster

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along

multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!



MOBY DICK'S
SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Legendary dishes
Recommended for
Easter week

Lunch & Dinner

Crab Bisque
A rich and creamy soup finished with Cognac

Grouper Siciliano
Grouper fillet oven baked with tomatoes, herbs, parmesan cheese, white wine sauce

Seafood Pasta "Moby Dick"
Jumbo shrimp, scallops and fish, fettuccine, sun dried tomato, rucola, white wine sauce

Shrimp à 'la Provencal'
Caribbean jumbo shrimp, garlic, tomatoes and fresh herbs

Banana Banana
Caramelized bananas, banana ice cream, chocolate sauce

For reservations please call (297) **586-8333** / Open 11:30am—11: 00pm / Paseo Herencia Shopping, Palm Beach, Aruba

Beachside Dining in that 'just right' atmosphere

Matthew's gets it right

EAGLE BEACH – Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operated Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beachside restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on your toes'

feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you. Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it very advisable to call and make a reservation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which will keep

you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spareribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



Opening Hours
 Daily from 7:30am till 10:00pm

Daily Happy Hours
 Noon - 1:00pm
 4:00pm - 6:00pm (with live music)
 9:00pm - 10:00pm

For Reservations & Information call:
 Tel: 588 7300



Free Ticket for
Morgan's
Island Aqua
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new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set “Havana Dance” apart from any other cabaret. Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous “Let’s Go Latin” review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle. Tickets for “Havana Dance” are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.- Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge’s desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith’s Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person. For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don’t miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of “Havana Dance.” □





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Obama to Loosen Restrictions on Policy With Cuba

WASHINGTON — President Obama plans to abandon longstanding restrictions on family travel and remittances to Cuba, an administration official said Saturday, fulfilling a campaign promise in a pivotal swing state and signaling a possible warming of relations with the Castro government. The White House is expected to announce the action before Mr. Obama travels to Trinidad and Tobago for a meeting on April 17 of Latin American and Caribbean leaders.

The House and Senate are considering legislation that would go even further than the administration and allow all Americans unlimited travel to Cuba.

While precise details of the plan are still being worked out, Mr. Obama is not expected to call for the lifting of the trade embargo on Cuba, which would require Congressional approval, the administration official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the policy change has not been formally announced.

Cuba analysts said Friday that they did not expect any new diplomatic initiatives toward the island nation. "It's a humanitarian step, but it doesn't get at the root of our foreign policy problem with Cuba because we don't have

full contact," said Philip Peters, a Cuba specialist and vice president at the Lexington Institute, a policy research center. Cuban-Americans are now permitted to travel once a year to the island to visit close relatives. The Treasury Department also issues licenses to travel to Cuba for specific purposes, including academic research. During the presidential campaign, aides to Mr. Obama called President George W. Bush's policy toward Cuba a "humanitarian and strategic blunder." Mr. Obama promised changes, including a lifting of all travel restrictions for those with relatives in Cuba and an end to limits on the money Americans could send their families on the island.

"I will immediately allow unlimited family travel and remittances to the island," Mr. Obama said in Miami on May 23. "It's time to let Cuban-Americans see their mothers and fathers, their sisters and brothers. It's time to let Cuban-American money make their families less dependent upon the Castro regime."

Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. also signaled the change last week on a trip to Costa Rica and Chile. "Over the next decade and sooner there is likely to be, and needs to be, changes in the relationship between Cuba and

the United States," he said.

The decision to lift the ban on family travel and remittances was first reported by The Wall Street Journal's Web site Friday.

Support for such changes has been growing in the United States and across Latin America. A new generation of Cuban-American leaders have rejected hard-line positions in favor of greater engagement. Latin American leaders have expressed almost unanimous support for an end to the United States trade embargo, which dates from the early 1960s. Raúl Castro, who succeeded his ailing older brother, Fidel, became president of Cuba over a year ago. He has made some changes, including loosening rules that prohibit most Cubans from buying cellphones, but Cubans have complained that he has done little to improve the

quality of their daily lives.

In Miami, reaction to the Obama administration's plan reflected both the decades-old approach to Cuba policy and its evolution more recently as younger Cubans have diluted the hard-line stance of their elders.

Several polls of Cuban-Americans taken in the past two years, by Florida International University among others, have shown an increased demand for some form of engagement with Cuba, and declining support for restrictions on travel and remittance.

Andy S. Gomez, a supporter of lifting the family travel ban and a senior fellow at the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at the University of Miami, said the decision to loosen travel and remittance restrictions was "a positive first step" that would put pressure on the Cuban

government to respond.

"There is a change in the mentality of the Cuban-American community," he said. "At the same time, the Cuban-American community doesn't want to give up everything for nothing in return."

Still, polls also show support for the embargo remains strong among Cuban-Americans.

Ninoska Pérez Castellón, a Miami radio host and director of the more hard-line Cuban Liberty Council, held to a position that has been the standard among many here since the 1960s: no concessions until Cuba changes first. "It's wrong when you do not ask the Cuban regime to give anything in return," she said. "They're not agreeing to respect human rights, to give the Cuban people more freedom. No, it's just a free ride for Cuba's dictatorship."

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Hispanic Children More Likely to Have Hearing Loss

Children from Hispanic or low-income families are more likely to have hearing loss, and a serious but rare eye disease is often missed or mistreated among urban preschoolers. The hearing finding was based on a review of five studies conducted between 1966 and 2007, all of which explored hearing loss among children of various ethnicities from birth through the age of 19. In contrast, the vision finding was drawn from a

new investigation conducted between 2003 and 2007 that looked into so-called "refractive eyesight errors" among black and white children (aged 6 months to about 6 years) living in the Baltimore area. "Based on the data available in the various studies we looked at, it appears that in the Hispanic population and in low-income homes, there is likely a higher burden of pediatric hearing loss," said

Dr. Donald G. Keamy, lead author of the hearing study and a surgeon at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and an instructor in the departments of otology and laryngology at Harvard Medical School. "But we don't know the absolute cause of that increased rate," Keamy noted. "And it is also very important to point out that the information we looked at is actually both somewhat old and very fractured, in the sense that there is no unified national approach to collecting pediatric hearing loss information. So, we can not even say if the finding is absolutely true until we have a much more systematic and fresh analysis of the problem, which would require a more national approach to the assessment of hearing loss in children." Keamy published his team's

observations in the April issue of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. The vision study team, from Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, reported its findings in the April issue of Ophthalmology. Keamy and his colleagues point out that hearing loss is one of the most common birth disorders in the United States, noting that two to four of every 1,000 children are born either deaf or hard-of-hearing. The current review examined prior research gleaned from medical databases and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports. The hearing study authors found that the average rate of hearing impairment from birth to adolescence was "significantly higher" among all subgroups of Hispanic-Americans (Mexican-

American, Cuban-American, and Puerto Rican) and to a similar degree among low-income households. "The bottom line is that pediatric hearing loss is a largely unrecognized problem that has a great impact on a number of issues, with regard to learning and language development," noted Keamy. "And until we really completely understand the scope of the problem, we can't fix it and make things better." "So the point here," he stressed, "is that despite the fact that most states now screen newborns for hearing loss before hospital discharge, the process is not entirely standardized, and different techniques are used which have different sensitivities for detecting hearing loss. So the indication about the higher risk among Hispanics is, of course, important.



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Brain Cells Give New Clues to Alzheimer's

By uncovering a mechanism that causes damage to brain synapses during Alzheimer's disease, researchers might have found a key to reducing or preventing nerve degeneration for these patients.

According to a report in the April 3 issue of Science, researchers at the U.S.-based Burnham Institute for Medical Research have shown that beta-amyloid protein "multimers" create excessive nitric oxide. This free radical then reacts with the protein Drp1, causing the fragmentation of mitochondria -- the cell's energy storehouses -- in the brain, a violent process that causes the neurodegeneration linked to Alzheimer's disease.

When mitochondria break apart, the reaction damages synapses leading to nerve cell death. As brain synapses are vital for learning and memory, any damage or malfunction of these message-carrying connections can lead to Alzheimer's and dementia. Multimers had also been previously linked to Alzheimer's disease. "By identifying Drp1 as the protein responsible for synaptic injury, we now have a new target for developing drugs that may slow or stop the progression of Alzheimer's," study leader Dr. Stuart A. Lipton, director of the Del E. Webb Center for Neuroscience, Aging and Stem Cell Research, said in a news release issued by the Burnham Institute.

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HPV Test Screens Best for Cervical Cancer

With the right test, a single round of screening can decrease the risk of death from cervical cancer by more than 50%, according to research published in the current issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

The large, longitudinal study, conducted in nearly 500 villages in the rural Osmanabad district of central India, analyzed the effectiveness of three methods of screening, including the standard pap smear and the newer test for human papillomavirus, or HPV, whose sexually transmitted high-risk strains are known to cause cervical cancer. More broadly, researchers hope their findings will help determine how best to implement health outreach programs in developing communities - a crucial step toward preventing cancer deaths, which are increasing worldwide. "In developing countries, screening is not that common," says Dr. Rengaswamy Sankaranarayanan, lead author of the study and head of the screening group at the International Agency for Research on Cancer. There are small-scale cancer screening efforts underway primarily in

urban areas throughout Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, but they serve only a tiny slice of the population who would benefit, according to Sankaranarayanan. For example, "in India, less than one million pap smears are taken each year," he says, a fraction of the more than 200 million women who are at risk for developing cervical cancer.

Sankaranarayanan's study involved more than 130,000 women, ages 30 to 59, who were randomly divided into three test groups and a control group. Women in the test groups were screened using one of three tests: a pap smear, an HPV test or a visual inspection of the cervix after application of acetic acid (VIA), a component of vinegar that causes precancerous lesions to turn white. Among the study participants, only eight had ever undergone cervical cancer screening before. Women in the control group were informed about the causes and dangers of cervical cancer and instructed where they could go for testing, but were not given specific appointments; only 6% of those

women followed through with screenings.

"One of the major barriers for screening is that you need to go to a screening center, you have to wait, you have to go back," says Sankaranarayanan. "Many of these women are poor women who have to go and work in the field every day." And many do not understand that cervical cancer can be deadly. "There are a lot of false assumptions," he says. "People aren't aware of the severity of the disease."

Of the women in the three experimental groups, who were given pre-scheduled screening appointments, nearly 80% showed up. Those who had a positive screen result or visual evidence of cervical dysplasia (abnormal cells on the cervix) were given follow-up treatment, including further

testing, cryotherapy (the freezing and removal of abnormal cells) and, in cases of more serious cancer, surgery and radiation. Over the course of the eight-year study - women were tracked from 1999 to 2007 - researchers found that the HPV screen routed out more cancer and prevented more deaths than either of the other screening tests, and did so with the fewest false negatives. Among some 30,000 women screened for HPV, only eight patients who received negative results went on to develop cervical cancer. In the pap smear group, 22 women, or nearly three times as many as in the HPV group, who had negative results later developed cancer. In the VIA group, there were even more false negatives, with 25 women. In addition, in the HPV and pap smear groups, 60% of

cancers were detected early, in stage I of development, compared with 42% in the VIA group. "HPV appears to be a better test for screening," Sankaranarayanan says, reaffirming previous studies that have established a strong correlation between positive tests for HPV and development of cancerous lesions.

But HPV is a tricky virus to manage. Sankaranarayanan points out that, first, it is exceedingly common; there are some 100 different strains of HPV, of which 30 or 40 affect the vast majority of sexually active people during the course of their lifetimes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that as many as 80% of sexually active women (and 50% of all men and women) will be infected with HPV at some point.



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Caribbean Speed Printing N.V.

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Budget Debate Shows Washington Politicians in Denial

Americans who are looking to Washington for leadership in a time of economic turmoil are likely going to be disappointed by this week's debate on the budget. Instead of seeing a new kind of politics and an honest debate that asks hard questions and contemplates tough choices between competing priorities, taxpayers will see more partisan role-playing and accounting sleight of hand. Before the budget debate even began, the script was already written.

In the majority's war room, aides are continuing the script of 2008 presidential campaign. In this script, every decision that contributed to our budget and economic challenges occurred during George Bush's tenure. President Obama, as Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad (D-ND) said this week, inherited this mess and is merely "part of the clean-up

crew."

Finally, in this script, the congressional majority has no real responsibility for any of the fiscal mess in which we find ourselves. Anyone who counters this script is merely recycling old ideas and old talking points.

In the minority war room, aides are arguing that the president's budget taxes, borrows and spends too much. All of this is true but the minority can best demonstrate its commitment to limited government by leading by example. We can do far more in this respect, first by limiting our own earmark requests and by identifying specific areas of the budget that need to be scaled back. Doing anything less will reduce these legitimate claims to partisan chatter.

What the American people want, and what they voted for

in November, is an end to the petty, partisan and pre-scripted exchanges in Congress. The American people want a real debate and a fair fight between competing philosophies. What they detest from both sides is hypocrisy and partisan gamesmanship.

The challenges facing our country are too great for Congress to continue business as usual. Our task is urgent not just because we are in the midst of a financial crisis but because we are on the cusp of an even more severe crisis when baby boomers retire en masse in the next few years. Even before Congress contemplated this current budget that runs \$1 trillion deficits every year we knew that the impending bankruptcy of Medicare and Social Security would create deficits of the same size.

Yet, instead of having an honest

conversation with the American people about the need for restraint we are continuing to indulge in the bad habits of the past. President Obama was elected on pledges to go through the budget line by line, eliminate failing programs and end the abuse of earmarks and no-bid contracts. Congress, however, has little interest in change, unless it comes from the taxpayer's pockets. In this Congress' first ten weeks it has spent more than \$2 trillion and funded more than 8,000 earmarks. Congress continues to do the easy work - nothing unites politicians more than the pleasure of spending other people's money - and still refuses to do the hard work of setting priorities and living within our means. With this budget the perfect political moment for fiscal responsibility continues to be a mirage just beyond the horizon of the next election.

As a first step, Congress should drop its intellectually dishonest and hypocritical rhetoric. President Obama, is not merely part of some "clean-up crew," but, as President of the United States, has offered a sweeping and bold budget. I believe President Obama has proposed the most significant shift toward collectivism and away from capitalism in the history of our republic. I believe his budget aspires to not merely promote economic recovery but to lay the groundwork for sweeping expansions of government authority in areas like health care, energy and even daily commerce. If handled poorly, I'm concerned this budget could turn our government into the world's largest health care provider, mortgage bank or car dealership,

among other things.

I recognize that others have a different view and sincerely believe these policies are investments. That is the debate we should be having. But, as we do so, we should remember what the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York said, "Everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but not their own facts." The fact is, we are on an unsustainable course and have been for many years.

The American people want us to take the long view. History does not begin and end with each president, each election cycle, or each news cycle. It's time we look at the policies of the past 80 years, not eight years, because the challenges before us have been brewing for decades. Claiming that one president is the focus and genesis of all that is irresponsible and dysfunctional in government is asinine, particularly when this claim comes from members of Congress from either party who so strenuously defend their so-called constitutional right to spend money however they please.

The American people are still waiting on change. We can't afford to put off the hard choices any longer, and those choices are clear. We can grow the government or shrink it. We can eliminate wasteful programs or leave them on autopilot. We can live within our means or charge our excess to future generations. It's time for politicians in Washington to be honest with themselves and the American people, and write a new script so future generations can enjoy the blessings and responsibilities of liberty.



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ORANJESTAD - A team of 5 players will compete at the Sony Ericsson Open in the Beach Tennis tournament this weekend (April 4-5). Professional beach tennis players from Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, Brazil and of course the USA will play for a total prize money of \$ 15 000.-.

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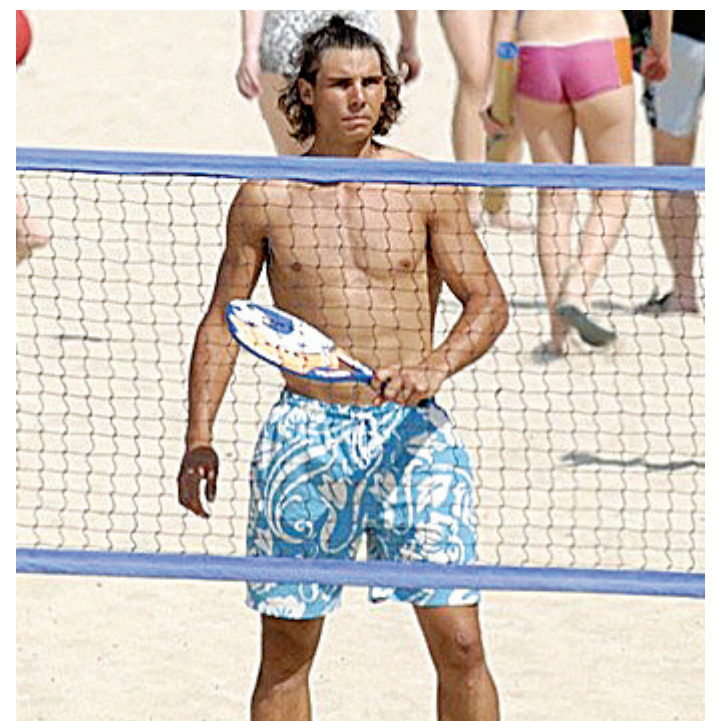
Earlier this year during the Australian Open even Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray picked up a paddle



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Jamey Johnson among early Country Awards winners

LAS VEGAS – Newcomer Jamey Johnson beat out veterans like George Strait and Brad Paisley in nabbing the first honor at the Academy of Country Music Awards on Sunday, winning song of the year for his poignant hit about an old man looking back on his life, “Living in Color.” “Thanks to my band going in off day and producing an off record,” Johnson quipped in a brief acceptance speech. Later, Rascal Flatts won the award for top vocal group of

the year, their seventh in a row. Julianne Hough won top new artist. The show began by featuring country’s top superstars in a medley of hits anchored by Brooks & Dunn’s “Play Something Country.” It included Taylor Swift’s fiery “Picture to Burn,” Sugarland’s “It Happens,” Carrie Underwood’s “All American Girl” and Rascal Flatts’ “Me and My Gang.” Hosting for the 11th year, Reba McEntire cracked, “Now that’s what I call a stimulus

package.” Strait and Brad Paisley led all nominees with six. Paisley was linked up by video from Nashville, where his wife Kimberly Williams-Paisley is expecting their second child. Jamie Foxx introduced Strait’s performance of “Troubadour,” and joked that the country scene was getting more diverse. “Things are changing,” Foxx said, mentioning his repeat appearance at the ACMs and Darius Rucker’s success on



Jamey Johnson performs ‘In Color’ at the 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 5, 2009. (AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

the country charts. “(An) African-American singing country. Things are changing. Got a black man running the country. Things are changing. ... I mean what’s next, white people going to Tyler Perry movies?”

Farrah Fawcett in L.A. hospital

LOS ANGELES – Actress Farrah Fawcett, who has been battling cancer for almost three years, has been admitted to a Los Angeles hospital, according to news reports.

The 62-year-old former star of “Charlie’s Angels,” was hospitalized on Thursday, according to People magazine.

Celebrity gossip Web site Radaronline, which broke the news, quoted sources as saying the actress was unconscious.

The hospital was not identified. A Fawcett spokesman did not return a call seeking comment on Sunday.

Fawcett was diagnosed with anal cancer in September 2006. Four months later, she declared herself cancer-free, only to have the disease return in May 2007. Fawcett traveled to Germany for alternative treatment and documented her experiences, footage of which she shared with entertainment television shows in early 2008.



US actress Farrah Fawcett, pictured in 2005, has been hospitalized in Los Angeles after a fresh setback in her three-year fight against cancer, it was reported Sunday.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Marsaili McGrath)

Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr reunite on stage

NEW YORK – An all-star concert on meditation brought Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr together for their first performance together in seven years. The reunion of McCartney and Starr, the surviving members of the Beatles, was the highlight of the “Change Begins Within” concert on Saturday night. The event was held at Radio City Music Hall to benefit the David Lynch Foundation, which aims to teach at-risk youth meditation techniques.

“Ladies and gentlemen, Billy Shears,” McCartney told the crowd, referring to the fictional character on the classic Beatles’ album “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,” as Starr emerged and immediately launched into his part in the Beatles’ classic “With a Little Help from My Friends.”

McCartney and Starr last performed together in 2002 at the Concert for George, which honored former Beatles George Harrison at London’s Royal Albert Hall a year after



Former Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr perform at the Change Begins Within Concert, Saturday April 4, 2009 in New York. (AP Photo/Stephen Chernin)


Harrison’s death. Saturday’s concert, which also featured Sheryl Crow, Eddie Vedder, Donovan and others, ran for about four hours. But McCartney had thousand of fans on their feet as he hit the stage near the show’s end. Opening with a spirited version of “Drive My Car,” he went through a generous selection of Beatles

and Wings classics, from “Can’t Buy Me Love” and “Let It Be” to “Jet” and “Band on the Run.” McCartney remembered John Lennon by playing “Here Today,” a song he wrote for the former Beatle, slain in 1980.

For the encore, McCartney was joined on stage by Donovan, Crow, Mike Love (of the Beach Boys), Vedder, Paul Horn, and of course, Starr on drums. After an epic version of “Cosmically Conscious,” he launched into the crowd-pleasing “I Saw Her Standing There.”

Other key moments of the night included an energetic cover of Queen’s “Under Pressure” by Vedder and Ben Harper, while Crow paid tribute to Harrison with a harmonious version of his “My Sweet Lord.”

Between the music, the night’s stars talked about the power of meditation to overcome problems. Howard Stern said he has meditated for 37 years, told the crowd that he credits meditation for saving his mother from depression.



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South Korean soldier watches a TV news program on the North Korean rocket launch at a train station in Seoul, Sunday, April 5, 2009. North Korea defiantly carried out a provocative rocket launch Sunday that the U.S., Japan and other nations suspect was a cover for a test of its long-range missile technology. The banner on the screen read, "Alert, North Korea launched a rocket ..."

Associated Press

North Korea rocket fizzles, U.S. says; Obama urges action

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— The U.S. and its allies sought punishment for North Korea's defiant launch of a rocket that apparently fizzled into the Pacific, holding an emergency U.N. meeting in response to the "provocative act" that some believe was a long-range missile test.

President Barack Obama, faced with his first global security crisis, called for an international response and condemned North Korea for threatening the peace and stability of nations "near and far." Minutes after liftoff, Japan requested the emergency Security Council session in New York.

U.S. and South Korean officials claim the entire rocket, including whatever payload it carried, ended up in the ocean but many world leaders fear the Sunday launch indicates the capacity to fire a long-range missile. Pyongyang claims it launched an

experimental communications satellite into orbit Sunday and that it is transmitting data and patriotic songs.

"North Korea broke the rules, once again, by testing a rocket that could be used for long-range missiles," Obama said Sunday in Prague. "It creates instability in their region, around the world. This provocation underscores the need for action, not just this afternoon in the U.N. Security Council, but in our determination to prevent the spread of these weapons."

Council members met for three hours Sunday, seeking above all a unified response, but the meeting ended with a temporary deadlock, breaking up for the night without issuing even a customary preliminary statement of condemnation. Diplomats privy to the closed-door talks say China, Russia, Libya and Vietnam were concerned about further alienating and destabilizing North Korea.

"We're now in a very

sensitive moment," Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yesui said after the talks concluded. "Our position is that all countries concerned should show restraint, and refrain from taking actions that might lead to increased tensions."

Diplomats continued bilateral talks into the evening. The council's five permanent members — the U.S., Britain, France, China and Russia — left for a meeting with Japan. The U.S., Britain, France and Japan drafted a proposal for a resolution that could be adopted by the end of the week. It is aimed at toughening existing economic sanctions by "naming and shaming" individuals and entities, council diplomats said. Mexican Ambassador Claude Heller, the council's president, said the council would reconvene "as soon as possible" on Monday to reach consensus on what to do about North Korea.

Continued on page 8

Media allowed to witness return of war casualty

RANDALL CHASE

Associated Press Writer

DOVER, Delaware (AP)

— The media will be allowed to cover the arrival Sunday of an airman killed overseas, the first such opportunity since the Obama administration overturned an 18-year ban on news coverage of returning war dead.

After receiving permission from family members, Air Force officials planned to open Dover Air Force Base for the media to observe the return of the flag-covered coffin carrying the body of 30-year-old Staff Sgt. Phillip Myers of Hopewell, Virginia.

Myers was killed April 4 near Helmand province, Afghanistan, after being



In this undated file photo released by the U.S. Department of Defense and obtained by thememoryhole.org shows flag-draped coffins of U.S. war casualties aboard a cargo plane in Dover, Del. News organizations will be allowed to photograph the homecomings of America's war dead under a new Pentagon policy, defense and congressional officials said Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009.

Associated Press

hit a blast from an improvised explosive device, the Department of Defense said.

Continued on next page



A worker climbs onto the wing of a Boeing 747 undergoing maintenance at the Evergreen Air Center hangar Wednesday, March 25, 2009, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

U.S. airlines earn higher marks for quality in 2008

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. airlines carried fewer people last year, but did a better job for those who did fly.

The rates of lost bags, late arrivals, passengers bumped from overbooked flights and consumer complaints all declined, private researchers say in their annual study of airline quality, based on government statistics.

While the industry had its best overall performance in the ratings in four years, the picture was not entirely rosy.

High fuel costs and a poor economy led many airlines to reduce schedules, raise ticket prices, jettison frills and put in place fees for everything from luggage to pillows.

Continued on page 3

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War Casualty

Continued from front page

Myers, a member of the 48th Civil Engineer Squadron, was awarded a Bronze Star in recognition for his efforts in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Department of Defense said.

The new Pentagon policy gives families a choice of whether to admit the press to ceremonies at Dover, home to the nation's largest military mortuary and the entry point to the United States for service personnel killed overseas. Critics of the previous policy had said the government was trying to hide the human cost of war.

President Barack Obama had asked for a review of the ban, and Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said that the blanket restriction made him uncomfortable. The administration will let families decide whether to allow photographs.

For example, if several caskets arrive on the same flight, news coverage will be allowed only for those whose families have given permission.

The ban was put in place by President George H.W. Bush in 1991, at the time of the Gulf War. From the start, it was cast as a way to shield grieving families.

One objection to lifting the ban had been that if the media were present, some families might feel obligated to come



In this March 19, 2008 photo provided by the U.S. Air Force, Lt. Gen. Robert D. Bishop Jr., then 3rd Air Force commander, left, presents Staff Sgt. Phillip Myers, 48th Civil Engineer Squadron, with a Bronze Star medal during an Airmens Call at RAF Lakenheath, England. Myers, 30, of Hopewell Va, died April 4, 2009 in Afghanistan from wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. After receiving permission from family members, Air Force officials planned to open Dover Air Force Base, Delaware for the media to observe the return of the body of Myers Sunday night.

Associated Press

to Dover for the brief, solemn ritual in which honor guards carry the caskets off a plane. Few families now choose to attend, in part because doing so means leaving home and the support system of friends

at a difficult time. The sudden trip can also be expensive and logistically difficult to arrange.

It was unclear whether anyone from Myers' family would be at the ceremony.




Don't drink & DRIVE

Airline quality

Continued from front page

Nevertheless, consumer complaints for the 17 airlines included in the study dipped from 1.42 per 100,000 passengers in 2007 to 1.15 in 2008. Southwest Airlines had the best rate, only 0.25 complaints per 100,000 passengers; US Airways had the worst rate, 2.25.

Half of all complaints involved baggage or flight problems such as cancellations, delays or other schedule deviations. The average on-time performance last year was 3 percentage points better than the year before, yet nearly one-quarter of all flights were late. The study being released Monday said 12 airlines improved from the previous year, but only three airlines had better than an 80 percent on-time rate: Hawaiian Airlines, 90 percent; Southwest, 80.5 percent; and US Airways, 80.1 percent.

American Airlines, the largest U.S. air carrier as measured by passengers flown the most miles, had the worst record, arriving on time only 69.8 percent of the time.

The overall rate of passengers denied boardings — usually bumpings due to overbooking — dipped slightly, from 1.14 per 10,000 passengers to 1.1 in 2008. Jet Blue had the lowest rate for the second year in a row, 0.01 per 10,000 passengers; Atlantic Southeast Airlines had the highest rate, 3.89.

All the airlines did a better job handling passengers' baggage. The mishandled baggage rate fell from 7.01 bags per 1,000 passengers in 2007 to 5.19 bags in 2008.

AirTran Airways did the best job, with 2.87 mishandled bags per 1,000 passengers; American Eagle Airlines did the worst, at 9.89.

The study, compiled annually since 1991, is based on Transportation Department statistics for airlines that carry at least 1 percent of the passengers who flew domestically last year. The research is sponsored by the Aviation Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and by Wichita State University in Kansas.

An overall ranking of the 17 airlines based on their

combined performance in four categories was to be released Monday.

The improved performance was not surprising because 2007 was the worst year for airlines in the study, said co-author

Dean Headley, an associate professor of marketing at Wichita State.

The aviation system suffered close to a meltdown in 2007 as domestic carriers reported 770 million passengers in the busiest year for air travel since before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Aviation experts said the air transport system had reached capacity. There were 741 million passengers in 2008, and airlines are reporting weak

travel demand through the first quarter of this year, "We're now in a time when the system is constricting and performing reasonably well," Headley said. He urged Congress to take advantage of this "breathing room" to move forward on a system that would replace decades-old radar technology with satellite-based technology.

That new system is forecast to increase air transportation system capacity by enabling planes to fly closer together and more directly to their destinations, saving time and fuel.

"It's crazy to think we can keep going the way we were going with the volume of planes we have in the air," Headley said.

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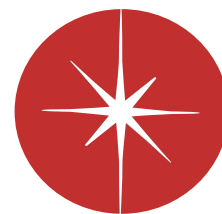
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Treasury chief puts bailed-out bank CEOs on notice



In this photo provided by CBS, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner appears on CBS's "Face the Nation" in Washington, Sunday, April 5, 2009.
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government may require new faces in executive suites at banks requiring "exceptional assistance" in the future, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said Sunday. Critics of the Obama administration's move last weekend to force out the chairman of General Motors Corp., Rick Wagoner, as a condition for possible additional federal loans say that strong government intervention contrasts with measures placed on the

financial industry in return for billions of dollars in infusions.

Geithner denied there was a double standard and put banks on notice that they may need to change leadership teams in exchange for accepting more money in the future. "If, in the future, banks need exceptional assistance in order to get through this, then we'll make sure that assistance comes with conditions, not just to protect the taxpayer but to

make sure this is the kind of restructuring necessary for them to emerge stronger," he told "Face the Nation" on CBS television. "And where that requires a change of management of the board, we'll do that." The treasury chief said that is what has happened at some big institutions that are getting large amounts of government aid. They include the mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which were placed into conservatorship by the government last September, and insurer American International Group Inc., the recipient of more than \$170 billion in help since last fall. "We've already seen a substantial number of the largest banks in our country fail or be absorbed by other institutions, no longer existing as independent institutions. And where the government has acted, like in Fannie and Freddie or like in AIG, where we've had to do exceptional things to stabilize them, we have replaced the management and the board," Geithner said.

"And we've done that because we want to make sure that taxpayers' assistance is going to make these companies stronger, make sure there's accountability, make sure it comes with strong conditions. And we'll do that in the future if that is necessary," he added. "It's a single standard, a single principle. And our obligation to the American people is to

do what's necessary to try to bring recovery back on track as quickly as possible." Asked if chief executives of big banks such as Citibank and Bank of America should worry about their jobs if their companies don't improve their performance, Geithner said the government would not shy from such a restructuring. "Where that's necessary, where it meets the test, where it's necessary to do what we ... exist to do, which is to make sure that this financial system supports recovery and the banks emerge stronger," Geithner said.

As part of the new administration's overhaul of the \$700 billion bailout effort, banking regulators are requiring stress tests for the 19 largest banks to see whether they will need additional support to withstand a more severe downturn than the country is experiencing now. Those tests are scheduled to be completed by the end of April. After that, the banks in need of additional capital will be given time to raise it on their own.

If they are not able to do so, they will be provided with extra support from the bailout fund. But the administration has said the additional support will come with tougher requirements to make sure the banks' are using the money to increase lending to consumers and businesses.

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Police: Dad killed kids because wife was leaving

PHUONG LE

Associated Press Writer

GRAHAM, Washington (AP)

— A man who fatally shot his five children and killed himself had just discovered his wife was leaving him for another man, authorities said Sunday.

The bodies of James Harrison's children, ages 7 to 16, were found with multiple gunshot wounds Saturday in the family's mobile home, most of them in their beds. Harrison's body had been found earlier in the day with a self-inflicted gunshot wound, behind the wheel of his idling car.

The night before, the father and his eldest daughter went in search of his wife, Angela Harrison. The daughter used a GPS feature in her mother's cell phone to find her with another man at a convenience store in nearby Auburn, said Ed Troyer, spokesman for the Sheriff's office.

The woman told her husband she was not coming home, and was leaving him for the man with her at the store. The father and the daughter left, distraught, Troyer said.

Sometime after the children went to sleep, he shot each of them multiple times. Four

died in their beds. The fifth was found in the bathroom, surrounded by signs of violent struggle.

"He wanted the kids dead," Troyer said. "It wasn't like he shot a few rounds. He shot several rounds."

Investigators believe he then returned to the area near the convenience store looking for his wife. His body was found near the store, Troyer said.

"We think he was going to go back to kill the wife," Troyer said. "He probably didn't find her and realized the gravity of what he'd done and shot himself."

Several weapons were found in the home.

Authorities have not released the names of the family. Relatives identified the couple as Angela and James Harrison and the children as Maxine, Samantha, Heather, Jamie and James.

Ryan Peden, Maxine's classmate, had said she told him Friday night that her parents had gotten into a fight and her mother had left. The father followed the mother and tried to get her to return, Peden said.

"Maxine texted me at 11 p.m. Friday. She said: 'I'm tired of

crying. I'm going to bed,'" he said. His text to her the next day went unanswered.

Candy Johnson, an aunt of the mother, described Harrison as a strict, controlling husband and father who didn't allow his wife to make decisions without asking him first.

"My niece has been so controlled from the time she was young," Johnson said, adding that Harrison had impregnated the mother when she was 13.

State child welfare officials put Harrison on a parenting plan in 2007 after a "minor assault" on one of the children, Troyer said, adding that the father agreed to the plan and the case was closed.

Ron Vorak, who lives across the street from the family's trailer at the Deer Run mobile home park, said he called 911 Saturday afternoon after one of the family's relatives couldn't get anyone to answer the door.

"He knocked on the door, and knocked on a couple of windows," Vorak said of the relative. "He walked around the side of the house, looked into the window. He could see somebody laying on the bed."

The home became a makeshift



The home where the bodies of five children were discovered on Saturday is shown Sunday, April 5, 2009, at a trailer park near Graham, Wash. Pierce County Sheriff's officials said they believe the children's father killed the children before committing suicide.

Associated Press

memorial Sunday as neighbors left cards and bouquets of flowers. School officials said they were making arrangements to have grief counselors available when teachers and students returned Monday.

"We're going to try to get through this the best we can given the circumstances," said Jeff Davis, Orting School District superintendent. "In

a small community like this, we know these kids. Teachers know the kids. All the kids know the kids."

Davis said the eldest, Maxine, was a 10th grader at Orting High School. Jamie was in the eighth grade and her sister Samantha in the sixth grade at Orting Middle School. The two youngest, Heather and James, were second-graders at Orting Primary School.

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Alaska's Mount Redoubt has another large eruption

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The Mount Redoubt volcano had another large eruption Saturday after being relatively quiet for nearly a week.

Radar indicated a plume of volcanic ash rose 50,000 feet into the sky, making it one of the largest eruptions since the volcano became active on March 22, said the National Weather Service.

The ash cloud was drifting toward the southeast and there were reports of the fine, gritty ash falling in towns on the Kenai Peninsula.

Plans to transfer millions of gallons of oil from an oil storage facility near Mount

Redoubt were derailed when the volcano erupted and a tanker sent to get the oil had to turn back.

The explosion caused a mud flow in the Drift River Valley. The slurry of meltwater, hot rocks, volcanic ash and other debris reached the area of the Chevron-operated Drift River Terminal, where 6.3 million gallons of oil is stored in two tanks, said Rod Ficken, vice president of Cook Inlet Pipeline Co.

A concrete-reinforced dike surrounding the tank farm is continuing to do a good job of protecting the tanks, he said.

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Castro: Americans Summit to keep 'excluding' Cuba



In this photo provided by Cuba's government on March 13, 2009, Honduras' President Manuel Zelaya, left, speaks with Cuba's former President Fidel Castro in Havana, Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

Associated Press

WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press Writer

HAVANA (AP) — A summit of leaders from across the Americas won't start for almost two weeks. But Fidel Castro is already complaining about its

closing statement.

In an article published Sunday by official news media, the former Cuban leader said that visiting Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega had showed him a draft of the agreement the

summit leaders are supposed to approve at the end of the April 17-19 summit in Trinidad and Tobago.

It "contains a great number of inadmissible concepts," Castro wrote.

Cuba is the only country in the region not invited — an exclusion based on decades of U.S. attempts to isolate the communist government. Castro expressed irritation that the proposed statement does not mention the calls by many Latin American leaders for an end to such boycotts and for better ties between the United States and Cuba.

"Who is now demanding our exclusion? Perhaps they don't understand that times of exclusionary agreements against our people have been left far behind?" Castro wrote, suggesting that Latin American leaders should push harder against the U.S. boycott of Cuba.

"One cannot keep silent in the face of unnecessary and inadmissible concessions," Castro said.

Diplomats usually conclude summit declarations well before heads of state meet to announce them, though leaders can always make last-minute changes.

U.S. attempts to isolate Cuba

diplomatically have collapsed in recent decades and Cuba now has warm relations with most major Latin American and Caribbean nations. Ortega and nine other Latin American heads of state have traveled to Cuba since January and most have met with Fidel Castro as well as his younger brother Raul, 77, who took over as president last year when the elder Castro formally stepped aside for health reasons.

President Barack Obama, who will attend the summit, does not support lifting the U.S. embargo altogether, but his administration intends to allow Americans to visit relatives in Cuba and send money to their families in this country.

Some restrictions on family travel and remittances were eased temporarily in legislation Obama signed last month, but lifting the bans entirely would meet a pledge Obama made during the presidential campaign and could be a step toward a new openness with Cuba.

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U.S. law fights submarine-like boats hauling cocaine

By FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press Writer

BOGOTA — It's a game played out regularly on the high seas off Colombia's Pacific coast: A U.S. Navy helicopter spots a vessel the size of a humpback whale gliding just beneath the water's surface.

A Coast Guard ship dispatches an armed team to board the small, submarine-like craft in search of cocaine. Crew members wave and jump into the sea to be rescued, but not before they open flood valves and send the fiberglass hulk and its cargo into the deep.

Colombia has yet to make a single arrest in such scuttlings because the evidence sinks with the so-called semi-submersible.

A new U.S. law and proposed legislation in Colombia aim to thwart what has become South American traffickers' newest preferred means of getting multi-ton loads to Mexico and Central America.

Twelve people have been arrested under the Drug Trafficking Vessel Interdiction Act of 2008 since it went into effect in October. It outlaws such unregistered craft plying international waters "with the intent to evade detection." Crew members are subject to up to 15 years in prison.

"It's very likely a game-changer," said Jay Bergman, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's regional director, based in Colombia. "You don't get a get-out-of-jail free card anymore."

The law faces legal challenges, though. The defendants have filed pretrial motions saying it violates due process and is an unconstitutional application of the so-called High Seas clause, which allows U.S. prosecution of felonies at sea.

The vessels, hand-crafted in coastal jungle camps from fiberglass and wood, have become the conveyance of choice for large loads, humping nearly a third of U.S.-bound cocaine northward through the Pacific, said Coast Guard Rear Adm. Joseph Nimmich, commander of the Joint Interagency Task Force-South based in Key West, Fla. That's up from just 14 percent in 2007, according to the task force, which oversees interdiction south of the United States.

Colombian Navy chief Adm. Guillermo Barrera told a counterterrorism conference in Bogota last week that 23 semi-

submersibles capable of carrying between 4 and 10 metric tons each have been seized in the past three years.

Though semi-submersibles aren't new to cocaine transport, a bigger, sleeker, more sophisticated variety that average about 60 feet in length began emerging three years ago. Earlier versions, christened "floating coffins," couldn't compete with fishing trawlers and speed boats known as "go-fasts" for maritime transport of drugs.

But drug agents started policing trawlers better, leading traffickers to new methods.

With just over a foot of above-water clearance and V-shaped prows designed to leave minimal wakes, semi-submersibles are nearly impossible for surface craft to detect visually or by radar outside a range of about 10,000 feet.

That accounts for their relatively high success rate.

They are propelled by 250 to 350 horsepower diesel engines and take about a week averaging 7 knots (8 mph) to reach Mexico's

shores, Colombian and U.S. investigators said.

Fuel tanks carry about 3,000 gallons of diesel, so no refueling is needed on the 2,000-mile journey from Colombia north.

With cocaine in Mexico fetching \$6,500 per kilo — about triple the Colombian price, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration — an average 7-metric-ton load yields \$30 million. Crews have no problem scuttling the vessels after off-loading their cargo, investigators say. The roughly \$1 million spent on each craft is simply written off as the cost of doing business.

Though authorities caught 11 semi-subs last year in international waters off the Pacific — with 7 tons of cocaine seized in one off Mexico in September — they estimate from intelligence and interdiction that another 60 delivered their cargo, Nimmich said.

About the same amount will get through this year, predicts Adm. James Stavridis, the U.S. Southern Command chief. He told a mid-March U.S. Senate



A sailor walks past homemade semi-submersible vessels, seized on land by Colombian authorities from drug traffickers, at the Bahia Malaga Navy base, on Colombia's Pacific coast, Thursday, March 26, 2009. Though 11 semi-subs loaded with cocaine were interdicted last year in international waters, the US Coast Guard believes that dozens more have delivered their cargo.

Associated Press

hearing they would have a potential cargo capacity of over 330 metric tons.

So far this year, crews sunk five semi-subs off Colombia's coast after being pursued by drug enforcers.

Two of the crews were arrested, plus a third one plucked out of the Pacific on Dec. 31 about 100 miles off Colombia. All are being tried in a Tampa, Fla., federal court, said Joseph Ruddy, the assistant U.S. attorney prosecuting them.

Semi-subs confiscated on land in

Colombia since 2007 have given authorities a good glimpse into the state of the art.

In November, authorities arrested a man they consider the most ingenious semi-sub builder. Tammer Portocarrero, a rotund 45-year-old, used a shrimp boat fleet as cover, said Capt. Luis German Borrero, the navy chief in the Pacific port of Buenaventura at the time.

They seized two of his subs at a jungle shipyard in a remote estuary south of Buenaventura, Borrero said.

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American Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice, left,, and Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Yukio Takasu speak to reporters regarding North Korea's launch of a test missile Sunday, April 5, 2009 at U.N. headquarters. Associated Press

Rocket fizzles


Continued from front page

Using a possible loophole in U.N. sanctions imposed after the 2006 nuclear test that barred the North from ballistic missile activity, the Pyongyang government claimed it was exercising its right to peaceful space development. The U.S. said nuclear-armed North Korea clearly violated the resolution, but objections from Russia and China — the North's closest ally — will almost certainly water down any strong response. Both have Security Council veto power. "Obviously today's action by North Korea constitutes a clear violation," said Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. "My government has called this a provocative act, and we have been in consultation today with our allies in the region and other partners on the Security Council ... to work toward agreement on a strong collective action."

Yukio Takasu, Japan's ambassador to the U.N., called for a "clear, unified and firm" council resolution to back up the earlier sanctions. "This is in direct defiance of all members of the international community," he said. "It is quite regrettable; we should condemn it." North Korea had warned that debris might fall off Japan's northern coast when the rocket's first stage fell away, so Tokyo positioned batteries of interceptor missiles on its coast and radar-equipped ships to monitor the launch. Nary a shot was necessary. Obama warned the launch would further isolate the reclusive nation. But U.S. officials also called for pragmatism, especially with efforts to get North Korea back to the negotiating table for the six-party talks. While the rogue communist state has repeatedly been belligerent and threatening — as it was when it carried out an underground nuclear blast and tested ballistic missiles

in recent years — Pyongyang showed increased savvy this time that may make severe punishment more complicated than ever. Unlike its previous provocations, the North notified the international community that the launch was coming and the route the rocket would take, although critics of North Korea leader Kim Jong Il claim he really was testing a ballistic missile capable of hitting U.S. territory. Analysts say sanctions imposed after the North's underground nuclear test in 2006 appear to have had little effect because implementation was left up to individual countries, some of which showed no will to impose them. Kim is reportedly a big film buff and his strategy appears to have borrowed heavily from the 1959 movie "The Mouse That Roared," about a fictional poor country that declares war on the U.S., expecting to lose and get aid like the Marshall Plan that Washington used to help rebuild its World War II foes. North Korea's state news agency reported that leader Kim observed the launch. Kim expressed "great satisfaction" that North Korea's scientists and technicians "successfully launched the satellite with their own wisdom and technology," the Korean Central News Agency reported. In a statement released just hours after the launch, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko said North Korea had informed Moscow ahead of time, and Russian radars tracked it. Russia urges "all states concerned to show restraint in judgments and action," Nesterenko said. Despite its policy of "juche," or "self-reliance," communist North Korea is one of the world's poorest countries, has few allies and is in desperate need of outside help. The money that flowed in unconditionally from neighboring South Korea for a decade dried up when conservative President Lee Myung-bak took office in 2008.

Pyongyang has little collateral and for years has used its nuclear weapons program as its trump card, promising to abandon its atomic ambitions in exchange for aid and then dangling the nuclear threat when it doesn't get its way. It's been an effective strategy so far, with previous missile launches drawing Washington to negotiations. The North also has reportedly been selling missile parts and technology to whoever has the cash to pay for it. Kim wants food for his famished people, fuel and — perhaps most importantly — direct talks and relations with Washington. Right now, the main contact is through six-nation talks aimed at getting Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons program. "We must deal with North Korea as we find it, not as we would like it to be," Stephen Bosworth, the U.S. envoy on North Korea, said Friday. Kim Keun-sik, a North Korea expert at South Korea's Kyungnam University, said the launch would chill ties between Pyongyang and Washington, but likely not for long. "Wouldn't they eventually come to hold talks? There is no other way," Kim said. U.S. officials also are trying to obtain the release of two American journalists recently detained by the North along its border with China. Paik Hak-soon, an analyst at the Sejong Institute think tank, predicted they would be used as bargaining chips, with the North likely "to try to link them to the nuclear and missile talks." Iran, which also has a contentious relationship with the international community over its nuclear program and is believed to have cooperated extensively with North Korea on missile technology, defended the launch. "North Korea, like any other country, has the right to enter space," Iran's state TV said in a commentary, adding that the "pressure on North Korea to give up its indisputable right" was "unfair and dishonest."



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matinee:	11:55	2:20	late show: 12:10

R WATCHMEN

daily:	4:40	7:50	
matinee:	1:25		late show: 11:00

PG-13 12 ROUNDS

daily:	5:15	7:40	9:55
matinee:	12:35	2:55	late show: 12:10

PG-13 MADEA GOES TO JAIL

daily:	5:20	7:35	9:55
matinee:	12:55	3:10	late show: 12:05

PG PAUL BLART: MALL COP

daily:	4:15	6:20	8:20
matinee:	12:10	2:15	late show: 12:15

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matinee:		1:55	late show: 11:55

R WATCHMEN

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R GRAN TORINO

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matinee:	12:00	2:30	late show: 12:10

PG-13 MADEA GOES TO JAIL

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PG PAUL BLART: MALL COP

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matinee:	12:10	2:15	late show: 12:25

PG-13 12 ROUNDS

daily:	5:10	7:30	9:50
matinee:	12:25	2:50	late show: 12:05

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Obama outlines sweeping goal of nuclear-free world

JENNIFER LOVEN

AP White House Correspondent
PRAGUE (AP) — Declaring the future of mankind at stake, President Barack Obama on Sunday said all nations must strive to rid the world of nuclear arms and that the U.S. had a “moral responsibility” to lead because no other country has used one.

A North Korean rocket launch upstaged Obama’s idealistic call to action, delivered in the capital of the Czech Republic, a former satellite of the Soviet Union. But Obama dismissed those who say the spread of nuclear weapons, “the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War,” cannot be checked.

“This goal will not be reached quickly — perhaps not in my lifetime,” he told a cheering crowd of more than 20,000 in the historic square outside the Prague Castle gates. We “must ignore the voices who tell us that the world cannot change. We have to insist, ‘Yes, we can.’”

Few experts think it’s possible to completely eradicate nuclear weapons, and many say it wouldn’t be a good idea even if it could be done. Even backward nations such as North Korea have shown they can develop bombs, given enough time.

But a program to drastically cut the world atomic arsenal carries support from scientists and lions of the foreign policy world. Obama embraced that step as his first goal and chose as the venue for his address a nation that peacefully threw off communism and helped topple the Soviet Union, despite its nuclear power. But he said his own country, with its huge arsenal and its history using two atomic bombs against Japan in 1945, had to lead the world. He said the U.S. has a “moral responsibility” to start taking steps now.

“To reduce our warheads and stockpiles, we will negotiate a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with the Russians this year,” he promised.

The nuclear-free cause is more potent in Europe than in the United States, where even Democratic politicians such as Obama must avoid being labeled as soft or naive if they endorse it. Still, Obama said he would resubmit a proposed Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to the Senate for ratification. The pact was signed

by President Bill Clinton but rejected by the Senate in 1999.

While espousing long-term goals, Obama took care to promise that America would not lower its defenses while others are pursuing a nuclear threat. He warned both North Korea, which has tested a nuclear weapon, and Iran, which the West says is developing one, that the world was against them. Obama gave his most unequivocal pledge yet to proceed with building a missile defense system in Europe, so long as Iran pursues nuclear weapons, a charge it denies. That shield is to be based in the Czech Republic and Poland. Those countries are on Russia’s doorstep, and the missile shield has contributed to a significant decline in U.S.-Russia relations.

In the interest of resetting ties with Moscow, Obama previously had appeared to soft-pedal his support for the Bush-era shield proposal. But he adopted a different tone in Prague.

“As long as the threat from Iran persists, we will go forward with a missile defense system that is cost-effective and proven,” Obama said, earning cheers from the crowd.

Hours before the address, an aide awoke Obama in his hotel room to tell him that North Korea had made good on its pledge to launch a long-range rocket. By lunchtime, the president had addressed it publicly nearly half a dozen times.

“Rules must be binding,” he said. “Violations must be punished. Words must mean something.”

“Now is the time for a strong international response,” he said. After the speech and a round of private meetings with foreign leaders, Obama arrived in Turkey, the final stop of his trip.

On the broader anti-nuclear issue, more than 140 nations have ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. But 44 states that possess nuclear technology need to both sign and ratify it before it can take effect and only 35 have done so. The United States is among the holdouts, along with China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea, and Pakistan.

Ratification was one of several “concrete steps” Obama outlined as necessary to move toward a nuclear-free world. He also called for reducing the role of

nuclear weapons in American national security strategy and seeking a new treaty to end the production of fissile materials used in nuclear weapons.

Obama said the U.S. will seek to strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation treaty by providing more resources and authority for international inspections and mandating “real and immediate consequences” for countries that violate the treaty.

He offered few details of how he would accomplish his larger goal and acknowledged that “in a strange turn of history, the threat of global nuclear war has gone down, but the risk of a nuclear attack has gone up.”



President Barack Obama addresses a crowd in Prague, Sunday, April 5, 2009.

Associated Press



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Taliban threaten two attacks per week in Pakistan

ZARAR KHAN
Associated Press
Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP)—

A suicide bombing at a crowded Shiite mosque south of Pakistan's capital killed 22 people, the latest evidence of how security in the U.S.-allied nation is crumbling well beyond the Afghan border region where al-Qaida and Taliban fighters thrive.

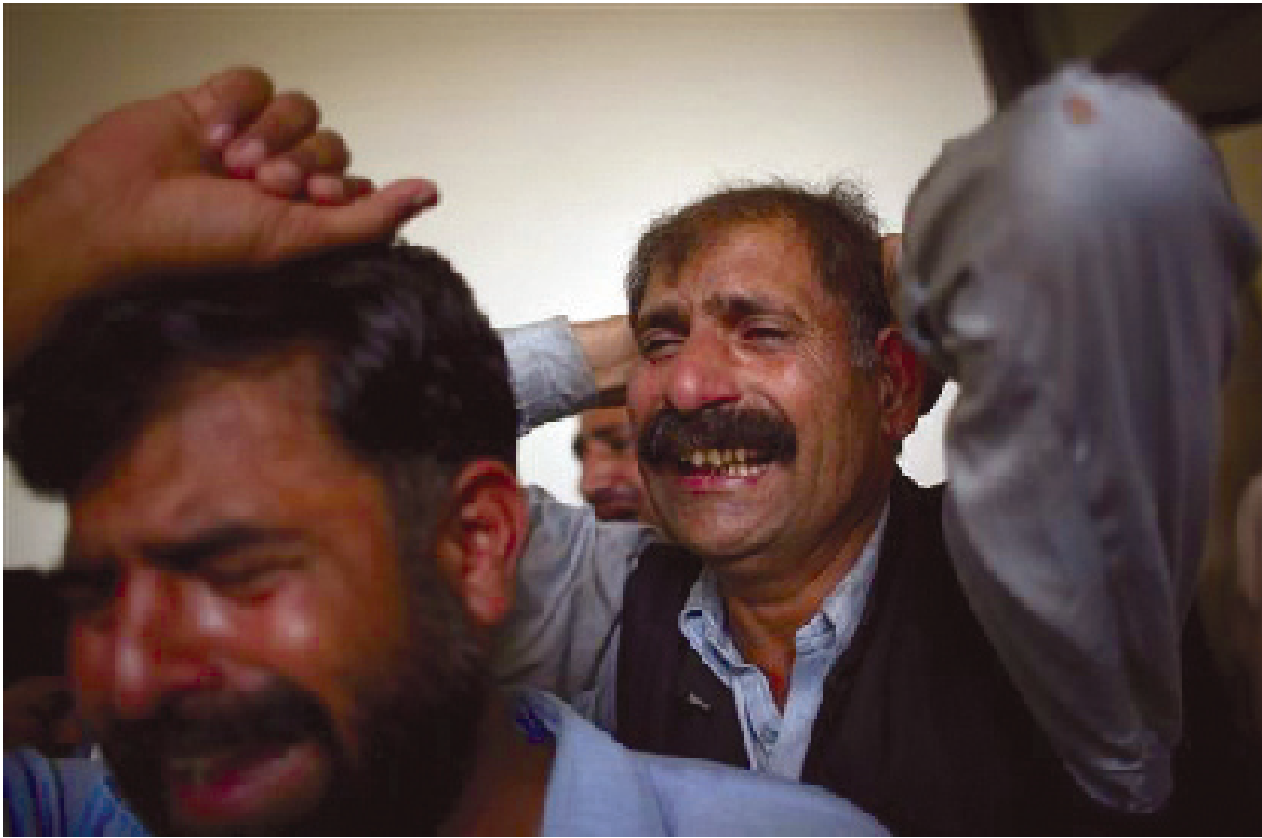
The violence came Sunday as a senior Pakistani Taliban commander said his group was behind a deadly suicide bombing the night before in Islamabad and promised two more attacks per week in the country if the U.S. does not stop missile strikes on Pakistani territory. Sunday's suicide bomber set off his explosives at the entrance to a mosque in Chakwal city in Punjab province, some 50 miles south of Islamabad, said Nadeem Hasan Asif, a top security official in the province. The blast killed 22 and wounded dozens, he said. A little-known group believed linked to the Pakistani Taliban claimed it staged the attack. Pakistan also has a history of sectarian violence, often involving Sunni extremists targeting minority Shiite Muslims.

TV footage showed pools of blood in front of the mosque. Torn clothes and shoes littered the ground, while at least one car and four motorcycles were damaged.

Farid Ali said he was leaving the mosque when he felt the blast on his back.

"I saw several people lying dead," he told Express News TV. "There was blood everywhere."

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani condemned the attack and directed authorities to "bring the perpetrators to justice." Such statements from the premier have become a matter of routine in Pakistan, where extremists seem bent on wreaking havoc.



Relatives of victims killed by a suicide bomber in a mosque, react in a hospital in Chakwal city in Punjab province, about 50 miles south of Islamabad, Pakistan, Sunday, April 5, 2009. A suicide bomber attacked a crowded Shiite mosque south of the Pakistani capital on Sunday, killing 22 people and wounding dozens more, officials said. Associated Press

Most of the militant attacks in Pakistan occur in the northwest, where the Taliban and al-Qaida have strongholds from which they plan strikes on U.S. and NATO forces across the border in Afghanistan. Still, all of the country's major cities have experienced assaults.

A man who goes by the name Umar Farooq and says he speaks for the shadowy militant organization Fedayeen al-Islam told The Associated Press via telephone that the group staged Sunday's attack on the mosque as part of a "campaign against infidels."

He also warned the U.S. to stop its drone-fired missile strikes on militant targets in Pakistan's northwest.

Little is known of the group, but it is believed linked to the Pakistani Taliban.

In the past it has said it was behind other attacks, including the bombing of Islamabad's Marriott Hotel and last week's attack on a police academy in Lahore, but officials have never named it as a primary suspect.

Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud — who also claimed responsibility for the attack on the police academy, which killed at least 12 people — has vowed more assaults

unless the U.S. shelves the drone-fired missiles. His deputy Hakimullah Mehsud told AP the Pakistani Taliban carried out Saturday's suicide attack against the paramilitary camp in Islamabad. He, too, cited the missile strikes, and promised that the group would carry out two suicide attacks per week in Pakistan.

He also said Pakistani troops should withdraw from parts of the northwest.

"We have shown enough restraint," Hakimullah Mehsud said. "Previously, we were striking once in three months, but from now onward we will go for at least two suicide attacks a week."q

Parents to visit detained U.S. journalist in Iran

By NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press Writer
TEHRAN, Iran —

The parents of an American journalist imprisoned in Iran will be allowed to visit their daughter Monday, and her case is to be reviewed by a court that normally handles security threats, their lawyer said Sunday.

Reza Saberi and his wife, Akiko, arrived in Iran early Sunday and met with authorities at Evin prison who gave them permission to see their daughter, Roxana, during Monday's weekly visitation period, said the lawyer, Abdolsamad Khorramshai.

Iranian prosecutors have issued a formal indictment against Roxana Saberi, Khorramshai said, but he has not yet seen the charges and probably will not for several weeks under Iran's court procedures.

Saberi's case will be reviewed

by the Revolutionary Court, probably next month, Khorramshai said. He had no further details. The court usually handles cases involving threats to state security.

Iranian officials have said Saberi was arrested for working in the country after her press credentials had expired. Her parents, who are from North Dakota, found out about her arrest in a Feb. 10 phone call from her. Her father has said that Saberi has told her family she has not been harmed physically but that the detention is psychologically challenging.

Saberi grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, and is a dual citizen of the U.S. and Iran. She has lived in Iran for six years and has reported for several news organizations. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

said last week the United States had given a letter to Iranian officials during a meeting in Europe, seeking Iran's help in resolving the cases of Saberi and two other Americans missing or detained in Iran.

The returns of Saberi, Robert Levinson and Esha Momeni would be a humanitarian gesture, the letter said.

Levinson, a retired FBI agent from Coral Springs, Florida, was last seen on Iran's Kish Island on March 8, 2007. He disappeared in Iran while investigating cigarette smuggling for a client of his private security firm.

Momeni, a dual U.S. and Iranian national, was visiting Tehran to research a master's thesis on the women's rights movement in Iran. Momeni, born in Los Angeles, was arrested Oct. 15 on a traffic violation.q

U.S. warns of potential attack on Nigeria missions

EDWARD HARRIS
Associated Press Writer
LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) —

The U.S. embassy in Nigeria said Sunday it had received reports of a potential attack against diplomatic missions in the southern city of Lagos.

Officials said in a circular sent to American citizens that Nigerian police had increased their vigilance around the consulate and were closely monitoring traffic nearby. The mission called on U.S. citizens to report any suspicious activity there.

The statement said it wanted to “inform American citizens in Nigeria that U.S. Mission Nigeria has received reports about a

possible attack against diplomatic missions in Lagos.”

The circular from the Abuja-based embassy and the Lagos consulate gave no further information. A U.S. Embassy spokesman had no further comment.

In September 2007, the U.S. Embassy said it had received information that Western and U.S. interests were at threat from a terrorist attack in Nigeria.

The U.S. State Department said later there was no specific threat. Nigeria, which is a major supplier of crude oil to the United States, has never suffered a terrorist attack.



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton welcomes the Nigerian Foreign Minister Ojo Maduekwe, Monday, March 23, 2009, at the State Department in Washington. Associated Press

The population of 140 million people is evenly split between Christians and Muslims. The U.S. chaotic, crime-ridden city maintains a large consular of 14 million people on services office in Lagos, a Nigeria’s southern coast.q

Netanyahu pledges to produce peace policy soon

JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press Writer
JERUSALEM (AP) —

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday said his government would immediately get to work on Mideast peace issues, promising to present a diplomatic agenda in the coming weeks.

Speaking at the first meeting of his Cabinet, Netanyahu said he planned to appoint himself and 11 other ministers to the Security Cabinet, a select body that deals with the nation’s most pressing security and political issues. “In the coming weeks, we shall complete our policy guidelines for progress on peace and security,” he said.

Netanyahu has sent mixed signals about his diplomatic program in recent weeks. Elected on a platform highly critical of his predecessor’s peace talks with the Palestinians, he took a softer line when he was sworn

into office last week, telling parliament he would pursue a “full peace” with the Arab and Muslim world.

However, Netanyahu has given few details about his program and has so far refused to endorse the idea of an independent Palestinian state. Palestinian independence is a cornerstone of U.S. policy in the Mideast, and the Palestinians have said that if Netanyahu does not commit to a two-state solution, there is no point in negotiating.

Appearing on a late-night Israeli TV interview program, Netanyahu gave an indication of his stern policy in a brief reference to Palestinian rocket attacks from Gaza. “One thing I can promise you,” he said, “there will be no rocket fire without a response.”

On Sunday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said the new Israeli government would have to accept the creation of a Palestinian state, stop construction in West Bank

Israeli settlements and remove army roadblocks crippling life in the West Bank “so that we can resume dialogue in order to reach a political solution.” Abbas was speaking during a visit to Baghdad.

Netanyahu’s hard-line foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, raised additional concerns on his first day in office when he dismissed as meaningless the past year of U.S.-led peace negotiations and said concessions to the Palestinians only invite war.

In peace talks over the past year, the U.S. has pushed the sides to resolve the issues at the core of their conflict, such as final borders between Israel and a future Palestinian state and the status of Jerusalem. No apparent progress has been made.

Also high on Netanyahu’s agenda is Iran’s nuclear program. Netanyahu believes Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons and has called on the international community



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convenes the first cabinet meeting of his new government in Jerusalem Sunday April 5, 2009. Netanyahu says his new government will soon present its agenda on Mideast peace talks and defense issues. Associated Press

to prevent this. Iran says its program is peaceful.

Upon taking office last week, Netanyahu stressed that Israelis “know how to protect” their country — a possible hint that Tehran’s nuclear facilities could be struck if the international community fails to stop its nuclear activities.

Netanyahu’s government also is dealing with a sudden surge in violence. Last week, a Palestinian attacker infiltrated a Jewish settlement in the West Bank and killed a 13-year-old boy with a pickax. The attacker is still at large.

Over the weekend, a 16-year-old girl from an Israeli Arab town opened fire at a police station in southern Israel before she was shot and killed.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the girl was an 11th-grade student from the Bedouin township of Hura in southern Israel. He gave her name as Basma Awad al-Nabari.

He said police were trying to determine whether the girl had acted on her own or coordinated the attack with an organized militant group.q

Iraq pledges to protect its Palestinian residents



In this image made available by the Iraqi government, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, center, receives Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas during his visit to Baghdad, Sunday, April 5, 2009. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas sought to repair relations between Palestinians and the Iraqi government and find solutions for Palestinian refugees stranded in camps during his first visit to the country since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Associated Press

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Mahmoud Abbas won
 Associated Press Writer assurances Sunday that
 BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi leaders will protect
 Palestinian President Palestinians living in Iraq —

including thousands stranded in desert refugee camps — during his first visit to the country since the U.S.-led invasion of 2003.

The visit marked a major step in improving ties between the Shiite-led government of Iraq and the Palestinian leadership, which had warm relations with the ousted regime of Saddam Hussein. “We would like to thank the Iraqi government for its concern about Palestinians living in Iraq,” Abbas told reporters after a meeting with President Jalal Talabani.

Abbas, who also met with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, said Iraqi officials consider Palestinians living in Iraq to be “part of the Iraqi people, so we believe that they are in safe hands.”

Palestinian exiles who fled to Iraq after the establishment of the state of Israel have been the target of persecution since the fall of Saddam, largely because they were favored by his deposed regime.

About 11,000 Palestinians still live in Iraq, mostly in Baghdad’s Shiite district of Baladiyat. Hundreds of Palestinians, overwhelmingly Sunni, were slaughtered during the sectarian violence of a few years ago in Iraq. Several thousand remain stranded at refugee camps along the Iraqi-Syrian border where they fled the sectarian massacres. Abbas’ aide, Saeb Erekat, said a main reason for Abbas’ visit was to discuss the legal situation of the Palestinians in those camps. Government spokesman

Ali al-Dabbagh asserted the situation has improved for the Palestinians, including those in the camps.

“The Iraqi government has dealt with and overcome this issue,” al-Dabbagh said. “It is no more a problem, and now Palestinians in Iraq are sharing a normal life with Iraqis.”

For his part, Talabani said Iraq’s U.S.-backed government affirms its support for an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as the capital. “Iraq takes a firm stand regarding this issue,” Talabani said.

Abbas praised Iraq’s progress toward stability after six years of war, saying the country was witnessing “great progress in all walks of life.”

“This country has started progressing and started recovering. It has gotten out of the bottleneck, thanks be to God,” Abbas said.

The visit comes as violence has dramatically dropped in Iraq, though Iraq’s security forces continue to be targets of insurgents.

Six gunmen in two cars blocked the vehicle of an Iraqi police brigadier general Sunday evening in east Baghdad and shot him dead, police said. The gunmen escaped.

Two roadside bombs killed one police officer and wounded three other people in Anbar province, police 1st Lt. Bashar Khudaeir said. Another policeman was killed in a roadside bombing in the Anbar city of Fallujah, Khudaeir said.

Elsewhere, two people were killed — including a 3-year-old child — and three were wounded in a series of bombings and shootings Sunday in Mosul, police said. Sunni insurgents still operate in Mosul, the country’s third largest city, despite a series of U.S.-Iraqi security operations against them.

French aid group says two workers kidnapped in Sudan

by SARAH EL DEEB
 Associated Press Writer

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Two foreign aid workers have been kidnapped in the Darfur region of Sudan, their France-based employer and Sudanese officials said Sunday.

A Canadian and a French woman from International Medical Aid remain in captivity were seized late Saturday along with two Sudanese security guards who were later released in Ed al-Fursan in South Darfur, said Gen. Fatah al-Rahman, police chief in South Darfur. “It is not yet clear who is behind the kidnapping and what do they want,” al-Rahman told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Nyala, the capital of South Darfur.

There has been no contact with the kidnappers, Al-Rahman said. “We are doing everything we can to find them. We care about them

and their safety.”

This is the second kidnapping of foreign aid workers in Darfur in a month, and it deals another blow for humanitarian efforts in the country.

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir expelled 13 foreign humanitarian organizations from the country after an international court issued a warrant for his arrest on March 4. The International Criminal Court accuses al-Bashir of orchestrating atrocities against Darfur’s ethnic African population in the six-year war there.

International Medical Aid said the two expatriate workers were abducted by armed men from the group’s compound. Ed al-Fursan is largely populated by nomadic Arab tribes.

The abducted staffers are among five expatriates working in the region for the organization, said the aid group’s spokesman, Frederic



A worker walks into the offices of the Belgian branch of the aid group ‘Doctors Without Borders’ known also as ‘Medicins Sans Frontiers’, MSF in Khartoum, Sudan Thursday, March 12, 2009. Armed men abducted three international aid workers and two Sudanese guards in the Darfur region, a week after the government in Khartoum ordered aid groups expelled in response to an international arrest warrant on war crimes for the Sudanese president, officials said Thursday. Associated Press

Mar.

On March 11, three aid workers from Canada, France and Italy were kidnapped in Darfur and released four days later. Government officials said the kidnappers

were retaliating for the arrest warrant against al-Bashir.

Two Sudanese staff of International Medical Aid were killed in February in a bandit attack on a southern Darfur road.





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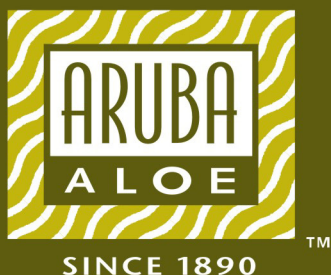
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* The coupon has no cash value and can only be used for the purchase of Aruba Aloe products on the day of the tour and only at the store located at the factory in Hato.



Sun deal cloudy after IBM pulls offer

BOSTON — IBM Corp. withdrew its offer to buy Sun Microsystems Inc. for about \$7 billion this weekend, clouding the prospects for a deal that would shake up the computing industry, The Associated Press has learned.

Talks were in their final stages in recent days, but IBM took its offer off the table after Sun terminated IBM's status as its exclusive negotiating partner, according to two people familiar with the situation. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the negotiations.

One of these people said the two sides were still talking

Sunday.

Armonk, N.Y.-based IBM was believed to be offering about \$9.50 per share for Sun. That was about double the price the Santa Clara, Calif.-based server and software maker was trading for when the discussions leaked last month. Sun shares closed Friday at \$8.49.

Sun was one of the darlings of the dot-com era but spent most of this decade struggling to find its place, wrestling with huge losses and thousands of layoffs. Sun was widely believed to be seeking a buyer, and analysts were not surprised to learn of the talks

with IBM.

But it does not appear Sun has alternative suitors to IBM, which has server and software technologies that could mesh with Sun's.

People familiar with the talks said the companies were haggling over price and Sun's demand that IBM commit to seeing the deal through expected regulatory scrutiny. Antitrust questions would likely come because IBM and Sun would have about two-thirds of a high-end segment of the server market. The combined companies also have about half of the market for machines that store data on tape.

'Fast & Furious' accelerates to \$72.5M opening

By DAVID GERMAIN, AP Movie Writer David Germain, Ap Movie Writer Sun Apr 5, 2:49 pm ET
LOS ANGELES — "Fast & Furious" left the competition in the dust with a \$72.5 million opening weekend, the best so far this year.

That topped last weekend's \$59.3 million debut for DreamWorks Animation's "Monsters vs. Aliens," which slipped to second place with \$33.5 million, raising its 10-day total to \$105.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Universal's "Fast & Furious" also raced to a record for April debuts, easily passing the previous best of \$42.2 million set in 2003 by "Anger Management." It was a blockbuster opening more customary to summer. But Hollywood has been extending its busy season more and more by placing summer-style flicks earlier in the year.

"It's summer time in April," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Media By Numbers. "We've seen the summer season stretch from what used to be Memorial Day through Labor Day, then the first of May through Labor Day. Now maybe with 'Fast & Furious,' it's going to be early April as the beginning of summer."

The weekend's other new wide release, Miramax's 1980s nostalgia comedy "Adventureland," debuted at No. 6 with \$6 million. The movie stars Jesse Eisenberg and Kristen Stewart as summer workers at a second-rate theme park in the late '80s.

The fourth installment of the "Fast and the Furious" street-racing franchise brings back the four stars of the 2001 original — Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez and Jordana Brewster. The new movie has Diesel's fugitive driver and Walker's undercover cop reteaming for more illegal races as

they take on a murderous drug lord.

The reunion paid off for distributor Universal, which also pulled in \$30.1 million in 32 other countries where "Fast & Furious" was playing.

The original was a surprise hit, but the franchise was slowly running out of gas after the sequel "2 Fast 2 Furious," which starred Walker. Part three, "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift," had a new cast and took in a solid but unremarkable \$62.5 million over its entire run.

But "Tokyo Drift" ended with a cameo by Diesel, sparking interest in reviving the series with the "Fast & Furious" reunion.

"The marketing campaign let everyone know it's not what you've seen before. It's the original cast," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal. "For the audience, the first main reason to see the movie was the action, then the car racing, then Vin Diesel."

"Fast & Furious" paced Hollywood to another huge weekend, with overall revenues at \$160 million, up 68 percent from the same period last year.

For the year, domestic revenues are running at a record pace of \$2.57 billion, up 14.5 percent from 2008's, according to Media By Numbers. Factoring in 2009's higher ticket prices, movie attendance is running 12.8 percent ahead of last year's.

"The title of this movie perfectly describes the box office year of 2009. Fast and furious," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

US kids feel grown-up stress in slumping economy

WASHINGTON — Children across the United States are feeling the impact of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

In just one example Demetri Wolfe-Maris, a proud young man, in the grimmest economy in three generations, has landed a job. And he's only 10-years-old.

"He's been working for a neighbor of ours, counting coins. He makes five dollars an hour and feels proud because he doesn't have to ask me for money," his mother, Abebi Wolfe, 34 who has been out of work for a year, told AFP.

Last month, after Demetri learned that his father, who does not live with the family, had lost his job too, the fifth grader went to see the counsellor at his elementary school in northwest Washington.

"The counsellor told me that Demetri came in with a very heavy heart, saying he wanted to get a job to help his family," Wolfe said.

The young boy had everything worked out. He would go to the McDonald's six blocks from his home where he was certain he was capable of serving burgers and fries with the best of them.

But, at 10 going on 11, Demetri is too young to work under US law, the counsellor explained to him.

In the largely working class city of Pueblo, Colorado, a school counsellor named Nancy organised a collection to help four siblings, aged five to 10, after she noticed them coming to school hungry and tired.

"Their mom had lost her job and the kids were staying up until midnight, helping her to make stuff to sell so that they could buy food," Nancy told AFP.

"I got people to donate money and we bought them a month's worth of groceries -- enough to tide them over until the mother got a new job," she said.

More and more children are taking advantage of the Pueblo public school system's free breakfasts, she said.

"There are so many kids who are affected by this economic crisis. It's outrageous... we're one of the richest nations in the world," she said.

Children notice stress in the family and, in this era of instant information, have easy access to media reports of rising unemployment and hard times.

"Demetri watched the news and heard the job loss statistics, not really understanding what it all meant," said Wolfe.

"What he did understand is that two people he cared for had lost their jobs," she said.

Young children can "feel they are somehow responsible" when they notice stress levels rising at home as a parent is laid-off, said Wendy Blome, a professor at the school of social service at Catholic University in Washington.

"Older kids' anxiety may present in different ways, like 'I'll get a job or we'll cut back,'" she said.

Diamond Patterson, 16, recently got a part-time job at a children's play place and restaurant in a Washington suburb.

"The economy is tight, my mom has bills to pay and I wanted to help her out as much as I could, even though she keeps telling me that my only job should be going to school," Diamond told AFP.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Lowe's performance leads Braves over Phillies 4-1



Atlanta Braves pitcher Derek Lowe throws in the first inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies Sunday, April 5, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

By ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Once the Philadelphia Phillies finished celebrating their World Series title, the Atlanta Braves spoiled the rest of the opening-night party. Derek

Lowe pitched eight superb innings, three Braves homered off Brett Myers and Atlanta beat the defending champions 4-1 in the major league opener on Sunday night.

Brian McCann hit a two-run homer, Jeff Francoeur had a

solo shot and Jordan Schafer went deep in his first career at-bat for the Braves.

Lowe (1-0) allowed two hits, no walks, struck out four and the sinkerballer got 13 groundouts. Mike Gonzalez pitched out of trouble in the ninth. Gonzalez gave up a one-out RBI single to Jayson Werth after pinch-hitter Eric Bruntlett started the inning with a double. After walking Chase Utley to bring up the tying run, the hard-throwing lefty struck out Ryan Howard looking and Raul Ibanez swinging to end it.

Lowe had far better success against Philadelphia on Sunday than he did in the NL championship series for Los Angeles. The Phillies beat Lowe in Game 1 of the NLCS and he had a no-

decision in the Dodgers' loss in Game 4.

Atlanta gave Lowe a \$60 million, four-year contract, and the 35-year-old righthander pitched like an ace in his debut with his new team. He gave the Braves the type of masterful effort they used to get from Greg Maddux, John Smoltz, Tom Glavine and Tim Hudson. Myers (0-1) filled in for Cole Hamels, whose first start was pushed back because of minor elbow problems. Hamels, the NLCS and World Series MVP, is expected to pitch at Colorado on Friday.

The Phillies celebrated the franchise's second World Series title during an hour-long ceremony before the game. Led by the Phanatic and veteran pitcher Jamie Moyer, players entered the

field from Ashburn Alley behind the stands in left-center. They walked past adoring fans in the aisles, down stairs and onto a red carpet that stretched from the warning track to the infield.

Then, manager Charlie Manuel raised the 2008 championship flag on the concourse behind the brick batter's eye. After a giant American flag was unfurled in the outfield, players were introduced to rousing ovations. Fans who used to boo Manuel lustily chanted "Charlie, Charlie" when the lovable skipper jogged out.

Even their uniforms had a special look only for this game. All the red lettering and numbers were trimmed in gold.

Continued on page 20

Murray defeats Djokovic for Sony title

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Andy Murray took advantage of Novak Djokovic's slow start to win the Sony Ericsson Open title 6-2, 7-5 Sunday.

The Scotsman used his vast repertoire of shots and took advantage of two wobbly stretches by Djokovic. The Serb looked nervous at the start and fell behind 4-0, and in the second set Murray rallied from a break down at 1-4 and won 10 of the final 11 points.

Murray became the first three-time titlist on the men's tour this year. He's off to a career-best 26-2 start, and since July his record is 57-7, best on the tour.

He finished with only 19 unforced errors, while Djokovic had 43.

It was a matchup of Nos. 3 and 4 instead of the anticipated showdown between Nos. 1 and 2. Top-ranked Rafael Nadal lost in the quarterfinals to Juan Martin del Potro, and Djokovic upset Roger Federer in the semifinals.

With U.S. tennis fortunes flagging, maybe Americans can claim Murray, who owns a condo near Key Biscayne and trained during the winter

at the University of Miami. Back home, he's touted as a threat to become the first British man since 1936 to win Wimbledon.

On a sunny, 85-degree day, Murray looked fresh throughout the match, while Djokovic appeared to wilt quickly and consulted with a trainer early in the second set.

That conversation preceded Djokovic's best burst of tennis. His serve improved, he began finding the range with his groundstrokes and he broke Murray twice to win four games in a row. Murray needed 16 points in the next game to hold for 2-4, which swung the momentum back his way. He hit three aces to hold for 5-all, broke in the next game at love and swept the final four points to close out the match.

Murray patiently mixed the pace and direction of his shots to keep Djokovic off balance at the baseline. When the Serb came in, Murray repeatedly beat him with crosscourt passing shots.

The statistics reflected Murray's well-rounded game: He won 26 of 34 points on his first serve, broke Djokovic five times and won 10 of 11 points at the net. Twice he hit second serves for aces, and he threw in several effective changeup



Gordon snaps winless streak with victory at Texas

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer
FORT WORTH, Texas — Jeff Gordon ended the longest winless drought of his career, beating Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jimmie Johnson to finally win at Texas.

Gordon won for the first time in 48 races Sunday at the 1 1/2-mile, high-banked Texas Motor Speedway, one of only two active tracks where the four-time NASCAR Sprint Cup champion had never won a race.

It was the 17th Cup race at Texas, the track where Gordon has the only two last-place finishes in his 552 career starts. One of the 43rd-place finishes came last spring before he was the runner-up to Carl Edwards in the fall race after winning the pole. "How ironic is this that when we go into this streak and we end it here in Texas, a place that's just eluded us for so long," Gordon said. "Incredible team effort. This whole year has been amazing. What a great car. I've never had a car like this at Texas. We finally had one and put it in position."

Gordon, already the season points leader with four top-five finishes in the first six races, did a few burnouts on the frontstretch before grabbing the checkered flag and taking his No. 24 Chevrolet for a long-awaited victory lap — his first since October 2007 at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte.

The only track he now hasn't won at is Homestead. He'll have to wait until the season finale in November for a chance to change that.

During interviews in Victory Lane at Texas, before firing the celebratory six-shooters, Gordon had to sneak a peek at the logos on his car to remind himself of everybody

he needed to thank. It had been a long time, especially by his standards.

Rick Hendrick wasn't there, so Gordon tried to talk to him by cell phone from Victory Lane. Also missing were his wife and daughter. "I'm just thrilled. I can't wait to get home to Ingrid and Ella," Gordon said. "I know (Ella) was saying 'Go poppy go' all day long. I hate that they couldn't come."

Gordon won by 0.542 seconds over Johnson with an average speed of 146.372 mph for his 82nd career victory, one behind Cale Yarborough for fifth on the all-time list. Bobby Allison and Darrell Waltrip are tied for third on that list with 84 victories.

Edwards, going for his third consecutive Cup victory at Texas, was leading when the final caution came out because David Stremme got loose and spun coming out of the third turn with 30 laps to go in the 334-lap race.

But Edwards' crew had problems changing tires and he dropped 10 spots to 11th coming off pit row. Gordon had a flawless stop, moving from third to first and staying ahead the rest of the race.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. took only two right-side tires and went from 12th to first on a restart with 76 laps to go.

But Earnhardt quickly lost that lead between turns one and two when Kyle Busch, trying to regain a lost lap, got loose and bumped him. Earnhardt got pushed to the top of the track, allowing Gordon to charge ahead.

Gordon was still holding the lead with 39 laps left when he got caught in traffic and Edwards slid under him into first. Tony Stewart got past Gordon a few laps later and that was the running order when Stremme spun out.

Greg Biffle finished third,



Jeff Gordon celebrates with in victory lane with a pair of pistols after winning the NASCAR Samsung 500 auto race at Texas Motor Speedway, Sunday, April 5, 2009, in Fort Worth, Texas.
Associated Press

followed by Stewart and Matt Kenseth. Edwards finished 10th, a spot ahead of polesitter David Reutimann. Reutimann, driving a No. 00 Toyota for Michael Waltrip, didn't even lead the first lap. Gordon did, passing him as they crossed the start-finish line for the first time.

Gordon led six times for 105 laps in a race that featured 28 lead changes, nine more than any other Cup race this season and one short of the Texas record.

Gordon led the first seven laps, but gave up the lead because of some handling issues with his car. But he was never too far from the front, never out of the top 10. Biffle, led three times for 93 laps and his Roush Fenway teammate Kenseth had three leads for 55 laps. Edwards one time in front lasted nine laps.

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NBA Roundup

Kidd edges past Johnson's mark in win over Suns

DALLAS (AP) — Jason Kidd had 19 points, a season-high 20 assists and a major career milestone — all in just three quarters — to help Dallas to a 140-116 victory over Phoenix on Sunday, virtually assuring the Mavericks of grabbing no worse than the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Dallas has a four-game lead with five games left. Because the Mavs won the season series, they hold the tiebreaker over the Suns, so Phoenix must finish 5-0 and Dallas 0-5 for the teams to trade places in the standings.

Put another way, any Mavs win or Suns loss clinches a ninth straight postseason trip for Dallas

and ends a streak of four straight playoff trips for Phoenix.

Kidd's 14th assist gave him 10,142 for his career, passing Magic Johnson for No. 3 on the NBA's list. Among those who gave him a standing ovation was broadcaster Mark Jackson, who is second with 10,334.

Dirk Nowitzki made 10 of 12 shots and scored 28 points for Dallas, marking his 20th straight game with at least 20 points.

Leandro Barbosa had 24 points and Grant Hill finished with 23 for the Suns.

Cavaliers 101, Spurs 81

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 38 points while Mo Williams and Delonte West added

22 apiece as the NBA's best home team avoided its first three-game losing streak.

Embarrassed in a 29-point loss in Orlando, a humbling defeat that came one day after a humiliating loss at lowly Washington, Cleveland played with purpose at both ends and improved to 37-1 at home. If they can win their final three home games, the Cavs would match the 1985-86 Boston Celtics (40-1) for the best home record in NBA history.

Tony Parker scored 24 for San Antonio but got no help from Manu Ginobili (four points) or Tim Duncan, who had just six and didn't score after the 2:56 mark of the first quarter.



Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Kidd (2) drives past Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash in the first half of their NBA basketball game in Dallas, Sunday, April 5, 2009.

Associated Press

Pistons 104, Bobcats 97

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Will Bynum scored a franchise-record 26 points in the fourth quarter to lead Detroit past the Charlotte Bobcats and put the Pistons a step closer to locking up the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Bynum scored the final 13 points for the Pistons and finished with a career-high 32 points. He made all six of his field-goal attempts and went 14-for-16 from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter.

The win was the third for Detroit in four meetings with Charlotte this season and leaves the Pistons three games ahead of the Bobcats with five games remaining.

D.J. Augustin led Charlotte with 22 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter.

Knicks 112, Raptors 103

At Toronto, Wilson Chandler scored 17 points, David Lee added 16 points and 10 rebounds as the New York Knicks eliminated Toronto from the playoffs.

It came one day after the Knicks saw their postseason hopes end with a 102-95 home loss to the Raptors.

New York's victory snapped a nine-game losing streak in Toronto. The Knicks had not won there since March 5, 2004.

Quentin Richardson added 16 points for the Knicks, who snapped a four-game losing streak and won for the first time in six tries on the road.

Chris Bosh had 31 points and 14 rebounds for Toronto, whose season-high six-game winning streak came to an end.

Jazz 108, Hornets 94

At New Orleans, Ronnie Brewer scored 23 points and the Utah Jazz completed a convincing season sweep of the New Orleans Hornets.

Deron Williams had 21 points and 11 assists for Utah, which led by 30 in the second quarter and snapped a three-game skid with its first road victory against a winning team in the Western Conference this season.

David West had 23 points and 12 rebounds for New Orleans, which could have clinched a playoff spot with a victory, but instead lost its second straight game. Chris Paul had 19 points and 12 assists for the Hornets, who lost all three games against Utah this season by double-digit margins.

Nuggets 110, Timberwolves 87

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Paul Casey earns first PGA Tour win in Houston

CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HUMBLE, Texas (AP) — Paul Casey won the Shell Houston Open on Sunday for his first PGA Tour victory, beating J.B. Holmes on the first playoff hole.

The 31-year-old Englishman has nine international victories, but had never won in the United States. The victory boosted Casey to a career-high No. 6 in the world rankings.

“It’s time to start believing I can be a top 10 player in the world and maybe I can be in the top five,” Casey said. “We’ll see when we get there. Clearly, I just took a little while to sort of get used to things and feel comfortable. Now, I feel comfortable out here.”

Holmes needed a win to earn a trip to next week’s U.S. Masters, but is the only player from last year’s Ryder Cup who failed to qualify.

Casey bogeyed the 18th hole in regulation to complete a 72 and tie Holmes at 11 under. Holmes wrapped up a 69 almost three hours before Casey finished.

The players met on the tee of the 488-yard 18th hole, the most difficult hole of the tournament.

Holmes hooked his tee shot into the pond that lines the hole up to the elevated green. Casey then drove into the fairway

bunker on the right side and hit a safe layup to the front of the green.

Holmes reached the green with his fourth shot, then missed a long bogey putt. Casey two-putted from 27 feet to secure the win.

To force the first play off at Houston since 2005, Casey had blasted his sand shot to the bottom tier of the green and two-putted from 36 feet.

Fred Couples, seeking his first victory since winning the 2003 Houston Open, led for most of the final round before bogeys on his final three holes left him at 9 under, tied with Henrik Stenson and Nick O’Hern in third place.

Couples and Casey were among six players tied at 11 under when the third round ended Sunday morning. Tour officials said it was the largest logjam at the top after 54 holes since at least 1970, when the statistic was first kept. Bo Van Pelt, Colt Knost and Ryan Moore were also part of the tie, but none of them broke par under the windy conditions Sunday.

Couples birdied the par-5 fourth hole to take the outright lead at 12 under.

Holmes sank birdie putts on the first three holes on the back nine before finding the bunker on the par-3 14th for a bogey.



Paul Casey, right, of England, hugs his caddie Craig Connelly after beating J.B. Holmes in a playoff to win the Houston Open golf tournament Sunday, April 5, 2009 in Humble, Texas.

Associated Press

He reached the par-5 15th in two and two-putted to move to 11 under.

“I never thought I was out of it,” said Holmes. “It just takes a couple of birdies.”

Holmes hit his approach to No. 18 into the greenside sand trap, blasted out and sank a bending 14-footer to save par.

“It’s a very intimidating tee shot,” Holmes said. “After you hit that, the next shot is just as hard, if not harder. If you do bail out, you’ve got the bunker shot I had. It’s not easy.”

Casey sank a 10-footer for birdie on No. 12, then pitched to 2 feet on the par-5 13th to tie Couples for the lead. Couples then pulled a 6-foot par putt on 16 and hit the greenside bunker on 17 to start his slide.

The tournament finished in daylight after organizers spent the weekend playing catch-up after high winds suspended the first round on Thursday afternoon.

To save time, third-round threesomes were not reshuffled for the final 18. The leaders teed off again about 90 minutes after finishing their third rounds on Sunday morning.

“It’s been a long week,” Holmes said. “I feel like this is the sixth or seventh round. It’s

just been a difficult week, the way everything worked out.” Casey earned himself some extra rest on Friday when he sprinted from the 17th green to the 18th tee and hit his drive just before play was officially suspended. He played only eight holes on Saturday, then finished a 69 on Sunday morning to begin the final round tied for the lead.

Casey is the first European player to win the Houston Open, but the sixth international winner since 2002. He was one of 37 players who came to Houston to tune up for next week’s Masters, taking advantage of an Augusta-like setup at Redstone’s Tournament Course.

Greg Norman is also heading to the Masters after fading to an 81 on Sunday. He took a quadruple bogey on the 18th hole, dunking two approach shots into the pond. Sergio Garcia also found the water with his tee shot on 18 and took a triple bogey. He matched Norman’s 81 to finish 7 over for the tournament.

MLS Roundup

Pappa scores winner for 10-man Fire

BRIDGEVIEW, Illinois (AP) — Marco Pappa scored his first goal of the season to help 10-man Chicago Fire to a 1-0 win over the New York Red Bulls on Sunday.

Fire midfielder John Thorrrington received a red card in the 14th minute for a dangerous tackle on New York’s Macoumba Kandji. Kandji left the game with an injured right ankle.

Despite Thorrrington’s send off and the cool and gusty conditions, Pappa fired in the winner from 25 yards in the 33rd minute.

The Fire’s Wilman Conde lofted a free kick into the box that was slowed by the wind, causing Red Bulls goalkeeper Danny Cepero to come off his line. An attempted clearance fell right to Pappa, who drove a shot past a scrambling Cepero.

Wizards 2, Earthquakes 0

At Kansas City, Aaron Hohlbein scored his first MLS goal to help the Kansas City

Wizards to their first win of the season.

Claudio Lopez also scored for Kansas City (1-2), which had given up five goals in its first two games. The Wizards had 12 shots on goal against three for San Jose, which didn’t force a save by Kansas City’s Kevin Hartman until the 81st minute.

San Jose dropped to 1-2 on the season.

Hohlbein’s close-range goal in the 28th minute came after two deflections in the penalty area.

Chivas USA 2, Crew 1

At Carson, California, Eduardo Lillingston broke a deadlock early in the second half and Chivas USA held off a 10-man Columbus side.

It is the first time Chivas has won its opening three matches in the MLS season in the team’s five-year history. Defending MLS Cup champion Columbus lost for the second time in four days.

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Braves phillies

Continued from page 16

The festive crowd of 44,532 had barely settled into their seats by the time the Braves jumped ahead. Making his third straight opening-day start, Myers retired the first two batters before Chipper Jones lined a single to left. McCann followed with a shot that reached the second deck in right field. A smattering boos were heard while McCann circled the bases.

It wouldn't be Philly without some jeers. Francoeur led off the second with a liner to the seats in left.

One batter later, Schafer drove one out to center. The rookie center fielder became the fifth Atlanta player to homer in his debut and first since Francoeur did it in 2005.

Myers settled in after that inning. He allowed four runs and eight hits, striking out six in six innings. Coming off a down-and-up season in which he was briefly demoted to the minors, the 28-year-old right-hander has plenty riding on his performance because he's in the final season of a \$25.75, three-year contract.

The Phillies are favorites to win their third straight NL East title mainly because they have nearly the same team that went 11-3 against Milwaukee, Los Angeles and Tampa Bay last October.

But Philadelphia's star-studded offense sputtered in the opener. Jimmy Rollins, Utley and Howard combined to go 1-for-11 with two strikeouts.



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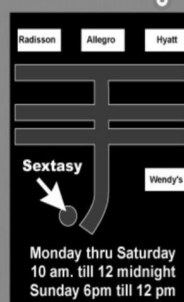
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Según jefa de delegación de legisladores de EE.UU

EEUU-Cuba deben normalizar relaciones, luego resolver diferencias



La congresista estadounidense Barbara Lee habla a los medios durante una conferencia de prensa en La Habana. Abril 5, 2009. Estados Unidos y Cuba deberían normalizar sus relaciones diplomáticas y luego resolver sus diferencias, dijo el domingo la jefa de una delegación de legisladores estadounidenses que está de visita en la isla. **REUTERS/ Enrique De La Osa (CUBA EEUU CONGRESISTAS)**

LA HABANA (Reuters) - Estados Unidos y Cuba deberían normalizar sus relaciones diplomáticas y luego resolver sus diferencias, dijo el domingo la jefa de una delegación de legisladores estadounidenses que está de visita en la isla. "La mayoría de los miembros de nuestra delegación cree que debemos normalizar las relaciones, a lo que seguirán los detalles de lo que eso significa", dijo la representante Barbara Lee, quien también

es presidenta del grupo que integra a los legisladores negros en el Congreso, en una conferencia de prensa.

La delegación integrada por siete demócratas, mayormente legisladores afroamericanos, se reunió con el presidente del Parlamento cubano, Ricardo Alarcón, y con el canciller, Bruno Rodríguez, en lo que Lee catalogó como un esfuerzo por mejorar las relaciones entre Washington y la isla de Gobierno comunista.

Los legisladores también visitaron varias instalaciones cubanas, incluyendo un complejo de ingeniería genética y uno farmacéutico, y tenían previsto visitar algunas iglesias el domingo.

Estados Unidos es el único país en el hemisferio, además de El Salvador, que no tiene relaciones diplomáticas y económicas normales con Cuba.

El presidente electo

salvadoreño, Mauricio Funes, dijo que las restablecerá cuando asuma en junio.

El presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, pidió una revisión de la política hacia Cuba, pero ha dicho que se debe mantener el embargo de varias décadas para forzar cambios en el sistema socialista de la isla.

Si bien Obama podría relajar las relaciones diplomáticas con Cuba, la abolición del embargo debe ser aprobada por el Congreso.

La delegación de legisladores estadounidenses es la primera que visita Cuba desde que Obama asumió en enero.

Además esperan reunirse con el presidente Raúl Castro en un esfuerzo por lograr un acercamiento en los temas que interesan a ambos países antes de regresar a Estados Unidos el miércoles, dijo Lee.

"Hablamos en términos generales, más sobre

principios que sobre detalles, y lo que tendría sentido entre las dos naciones soberanas y cómo querríamos que esas conversaciones avancen", afirmó Lee sobre su reunión del sábado con el canciller cubano.

El Congreso estadounidense se alista para evaluar varios proyectos que levantarían la mayoría de las restricciones a los viajes desde Estados Unidos a Cuba.

El viernes, un funcionario de la Casa Blanca confirmó un reporte del diario Wall Street Journal de que Obama piensa abolir las restricciones a los viajes y envíos de remesas de los cubano estadounidenses, como había anticipado durante su campaña electoral, pero el funcionario agregó que la medida no era inminente ni representa un cambio en la política de su país.



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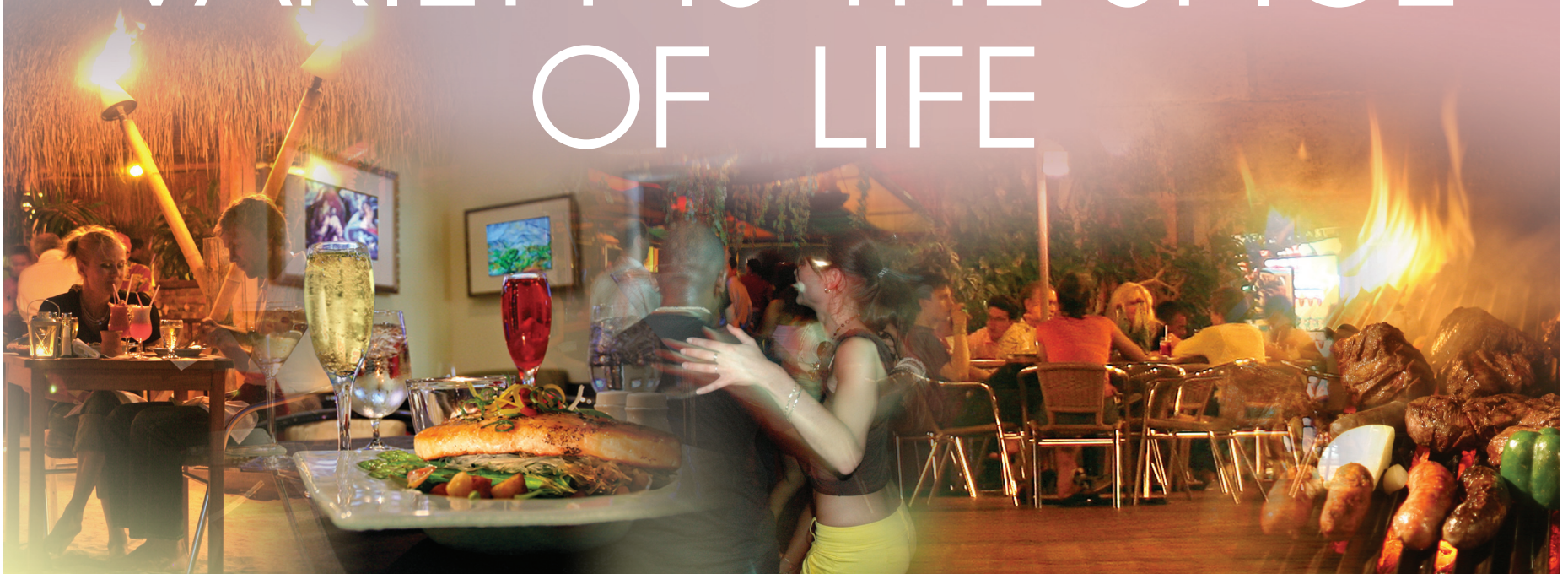
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